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THURSDAY APRIL 25TH, 2019

Three Horseshoes
Country Inn Moulton, Nr Barry

*Traditional,
Tasteful,
Tempting!*



Rotary Club of Bridgend members hit the road - see full story on page 4.

Police continue to target town centre's night time economy

OFFICERS in Bridgend have launched Operation Brake to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation.

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) can happen to any child under the age of 18 making them vulnerable within the town centre's night time economy.

The operation involves partnership

working between South Wales Police's licensing and CSE teams along with Bridgend County Borough Council's licensing enforcement teams. Specially trained CSE officers joined SWP licensing officers and council enforcement officers for the operation on Saturday, April 20.

Taxi drivers and staff at licensed premises were spoken to by officers and posters highlighting how

to identify the risks of CSE were distributed across the town.

Thirteen fake IDs were seized, including 11 fake driving licences and two fake passports.

Officers spoke with groups of young people in the town centre on the dangers of underage drinking and how this could put them at risk of getting involved in serious incidents which could affect the rest of their lives.

Detective Chief Inspector Phil Sparrow said: "We are committed to tackling child sexual exploitation in south Wales and protecting the most vulnerable young persons within our communities. CSE is a crime which has a devastating impact on victims."

**CONTINUED
ON PAGE 3**

Students bring the legend of The Green Lady of Caerphilly Castle to life at the RHS Show

THE RHS Show in Cardiff is one of the biggest events in the horticultural calendar and once again, Bridgend College showcased the talents of its horticulture department.

This year's display was based on the Green Lady of Caerphilly Castle. Known as a ghostly figure to those familiar with the legend, the Green Lady featured at the RHS Show this year was a fantastic display of foliage, complete with a leaning tower reminiscent of the 13th century castle itself.

Princess Alice of Angoulême once resided at Caerphilly Castle and upon learning of her lover's execution, dropped dead with the shock and has allegedly haunted the castle ever since. Her elaborate dress, green to represent her husband's envy, was tastefully displayed at the show with ferns, hostas, moss and boughs of evergreen.



The Green Lady in all her glory.

the construction of the feature. A college spokesperson said: "The Green Lady was certainly an attraction, with many visitors commending the effort of the students."

The construction of the Green Lady took two weeks, from the transportation of base materials to the full

installation and maintenance on the day. The college has since been approached by Cadw, the historic environment service of the Welsh Government, to potentially display the feature at Caerphilly Castle in the near future.

HND year 1 students also put their planting skills to the test to

create a blossoming bed that supports the health benefits of horticulture and the environment. They were awarded a silver award at the show.

Bridgend College would like to congratulate all involved and look forward to seeing what next year will bring to the RHS Show.

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Horse riders on the road with a safety message



Some of the horses and riders who were out on the day.

SUNDAY, April 14, saw 46 horse riders turned out for a 'Pass Wide and Slow' event – designed to raise awareness and educate drivers about how to pass horses safely.

Organised by Carley O'Callaghan, it started at Kenfig Nature Reserve, and was one of many similar events organised on the same day around the UK by the Pass Wide & Slow FB campaign group.

Carley told The GEM: "The society had 845 incidents reported to them in the last year. In these incidents, four people lost their lives, 115 were injured and 87 horses died. Over 70 per cent of incidents occurred due to vehicles passing too closely to the horse."

"The aim of the ride was to raise awareness



Taking the safety message out on the road.

and educate drivers. Remember to slow down to a maximum of 15mph, be patient – do not sound your horn or rev the engine.

"Pass the horse wide and slow – at least a car width, and drive slowly away."

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Car parking phone app now available in Welsh

PAYBYPHONE has announced that UK drivers can now use its parking app in Welsh.

Cllr Richard Young, cabinet member for communities at Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC), said: "We are always looking to make it easier and simpler to park across the borough, so we're pleased that PayByPhone is now available in Welsh."

"Having this language option should see the number of people switching to cashless parking rise as people across the

county realise the benefits it provides."

To gain access to the Welsh language within PayByPhone, drivers can simply download the latest version of the app and set their iOS or Android device to Welsh.

Anthony Cashel, marketing manager for PayByPhone UK said: "We have also refreshed all the PayByPhone signage in Wales and now include both English and Welsh. We aim to make the process of paying for parking as user-friendly and convenient as possible and having different language options is a key

part of that service."

PayByPhone has been present in the United Kingdom since 2011 and currently helps drivers pay for their parking in cities including Newcastle, Manchester, Bournemouth, and seven London boroughs. The service includes a variety of features, such as text message reminders that are sent before a parking session expires, and the option to extend parking sessions from anywhere, even a smart watch.

For more information, visit www.paybyphone.co.uk.

Council signs up to energy efficiency programme

HUNDREDS of homes in Bridgend county borough will be eligible to receive new funding later this year to carry out energy efficiency improvements that aim to reduce fuel bills.

Cabinet members from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) have agreed that the local authority will take part in the Welsh Government's latest domestic energy efficiency programme, which is being created to tackle fuel poverty across Wales.

A home is considered to be in fuel poverty if more than 10 per cent of their household income is spent on energy, while a home that spends more than 20 per cent of their total household income on energy is said to be in severe fuel poverty.

By 2021, £54m will be invested by the programme into energy

efficiency improvements in more than 6,000 homes in Wales where fuel poverty is prevalent. The funding will come from the European Regional Development Fund, Welsh Government and energy supply company sources through the Energy Company Obligation.

Running the programme for the Welsh Government will be Arbed am Byth, which is a joint venture company between Everwarm and the Energy Savings trust.

Cllr Richard Young, BCBC's cabinet member for communities, said: "We are wholeheartedly behind any initiatives which help to tackle fuel poverty in our communities. The Welsh Government has operated domestic energy efficiency programmes for over a decade now, which have brought many benefits to local residents, and I am excited about what this latest programme will

deliver. "Our early thinking is that the Morfa ward in Bridgend town centre would be suitable, as well as parts of Kenfig Hill, Cornelly, Pyle and Cefn Cribwr. But the exact areas still need to be considered a bit further before letters will be sent out later this year to all residents who are invited to engage with the programme – based on them meeting certain criteria. Full details will be publicised as soon as possible via a widespread awareness campaign."

Energy saving measures that could be funded through the programme include: draught proofing, low energy light bulbs, loft insulation, cavity wall insulation, external wall insulation, thermostatic radiator valves, central heating systems, radiators, and renewable technologies such as heat pumps and solar panels.

Recycling Centres to open for one hour less

BRIDGEND county borough's three community recycling centres will soon open for one hour less each day.

Cabinet members from BCBC have agreed to reduce the opening hours slightly, saying that the move will save the local authority £17,000 each year without causing residents too much disruption.

Cllr Hywel Williams, the council's Deputy Leader said: "Reducing the opening hours will have a minimal impact on recycling levels but will contribute towards

the huge financial savings that the council is required to make.

"This change was one of the money-saving suggestions that received support from the residents who completed our 'Shaping

Bridgend's Future' budget consultation last autumn."

Details of the exact changes to opening hours at the centres in Tythegston, Brynmynnydd and Maesteg will be announced soon.

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL MAY 1)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20-25 minutes later.

| DATE | Time AM | Ht M | Time PM | Ht M |
|----------|---------|------|---------|------|
| 25 Thur | 11.12 | 8.5 | 23.34 | 8.3 |
| 26 Fri | 11.58 | 7.8 | ----- | ---- |
| 27 Sat | 00.29 | 7.5 | 12.59 | 7.3 |
| 28 Sun | 01.47 | 7.3 | 14.33 | 7.2 |
| 29 Mon | 03.14 | 7.4 | 15.57 | 7.6 |
| 30 Tues | 04.22 | 7.8 | 16.54 | 8.1 |
| 01 Wed | 05.14 | 8.3 | 17.39 | 8.4 |
| 02 Thurs | 05.54 | 8.7 | 18.16 | 8.8 |

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Operation Brake monitors town's night-time economy



PC Kelly Thomas and PC Darren Morris with staff at The Railway.

Three guest speakers at the Rotary Club's president's dinner

AT a recent dinner meeting, the Rotary Club of Bridgend president Rtn Hopkin Joseph hosted more than 125 guests and fellow Rotarians at the Heronston Hotel.

The civic guests included the Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, the Mayor of Bridgend Town and the Mayor of Pencoed and their Consorts. Other guests include members of Bridgend Probud, Bridgend Lions and Bridgend Soroptimists Clubs. Bishop Rotarian David Yeoman delivered the Grace and The Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Rotarian John McCarthy, proposed the Loyalty

Toast. The meeting was addressed by three diverse but most interesting and highly entertaining speakers.

Guest speakers were:

• Mrs Donna Wallbank of the Rotary Club of Brynmawr. A local business person in Brynmawr, she was the first female Rotary South Wales District Governor in 2010 and will be the first female who has been elected president of Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland for the Rotary year 2019/20.

• The Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AM. A former pupil at Brynteg Comprehensive School in Bridgend, he went on to study at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. He was

called to the Bar at Gray's Inn in 1989 and was in legal practice for 10 years. He was elected to the Welsh Assembly for the first time in May 1999 and became First Minister and Leader of the Labour Party in Wales in December 2009, only standing down in December 2018.

He is an Honorary Member of the Rotary Club of Bridgend and Southerndown Golf Club for which he is well equipped, being a member of the Campaign for Real Ale.

• Phil Steele. A broadcaster who has had 25 years' experience as a teacher – mostly spent teaching pupils with learning difficulties in the Rhymney Valley – and is among Wales' most popular after dinner speakers.

With a strong sporting background as a former top class Welsh rugby player with Newport RFC in the 1980s, Phil Steele is a radio presenter and sports commentator for BBC Wales radio and television and is probably best known to rugby fans as the pitch side reporter for Scrum V Live.

He is also known for his hard hitting journalistic endeavours which have included interviewing Miss Carmarthenshire live at Parc y Scarlets – in a hot tub!

The proceeds of the raffle held on the evening will support the Rotary Club of Bridgend's International Project REMIT (Rotarians Eliminating Malaria in Tanzania).

If you would like to learn more about Rotary and/or would like to join contact www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/home-page.php?ClubID=913 or the secretary on 01656 660648.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

DCI Sparrow continued: "Victims are manipulated or forced into taking part in a sexual act often in return for attention, affection, money, drugs, alcohol or accommodation."

"Children and young people do not become involved voluntarily – they are forced into the situation by abusive adults or peers who present themselves as their 'friend' or 'boy-friend'. This can create a situation where these youngsters often do not recognise that they are being exploited."

"This operation is about working with our partners and businesses/ licensed premises in the town centre to educate staff on the signs of child sexual exploitation and how they can help to prevent it."

"Officers received a very positive response

from taxi drivers and staff at licensed premises in the town centre.

"We are urging taxi drivers and those working within licensed premises in our borough to look out for the signs and indicators of CSE and report anything suspicious to us. This is not a one-off operation, we will be carrying out further operations in Porthcawl and Maesteg in the coming months."

"Tackling CSE is everyone's business, children and young people deserve the best start in life and to be kept safe from those who seek to exploit them for their own selfish ends."

"I would urge anyone who suspects a child may be at risk of sexual exploitation not just within the late-night economy, but in general, to report it to us so we can act. You can do so by calling us on 101 or if you suspect a child is in immediate danger you should call 999."

TC

Council plans to mix education with enforcement to beat littering problems

BRIDGEND County Borough Council (BCBC) has announced plans to tackle litter bugs and irresponsible dog owners who are spoiling the local environment.

The council has appointed 3GS as its education and enforcement partner to patrol problem spots across the county borough.

Anyone caught deliberately littering streets, parks and public places could face a fine, but education and prevention will be the priority.

Cllr Hywel Williams, BCBC's Deputy Leader said: "Much to everyone's frustration, there are certain parts of the county borough that have particular problems with littering and dog mess."

"These environmental crimes are some of the biggest issues that constituents report to us."

"We firmly believe that education is the best form of prevention, so 3GS will work closely with our waste department to help educate residents and promote our positive anti-littering campaigns."

"We have worked hard to install more bins where they are needed, and are always open to consider residents' requests for more bins; but unfortunately there are some residents who have total disregard for others and continue to dirty our streets despite the fact that there are bins nearby."

"We need to get across the message that littering is a criminal offence and won't be accepted. We haven't always had sufficient resources and powers to enforce penalties, but I'm very pleased to say that this new contract is a major step in the right direction."

"When we consulted with local residents on this matter last year, residents were overwhelmingly supportive of the idea of being tougher on those who spoil it for others."

The council's contract with 3GS has been agreed for an initial 12 months with an option to extend. The contract will be operated on a self-funded basis. Funds received above the cost of the contract can be used for anti-littering education and promotional purposes.

Martin Jerrold, 3GS managing director, said: "3GS acts as a proportionate enforcer, meaning that fixed penalty notices are issued based on need."

"Our aim is to reduce environmental crime for the long-term."

"We will join forces with the council to promote their anti-littering campaigns throughout local communities to highlight the threat, harm and risk of littering, and will remind people about the penalties in place for committing these crimes."

Postcards can help people connect

KPC Youth & Community, based in Pyle, are running an inter-generational project called 'Postcard Connections'.

The project is based around old-fashioned ways of keeping in touch – such as postcards! Many people don't really get much in the post these days to make them feel someone cares, or wants to say hello.

If you know any elderly or unwell residents/ neighbours or friends who might like to receive a postcard and who doesn't hear from many people otherwise, or if you work in a residential setting within Pyle, Kenfig Hill, Cornelly, Porthcawl or Cefn Cribwr, perhaps you would like to be part of this project with your residents? KPC hopes they may like to respond to us (we have blank postcards for them) and let us know a little about their life; how things were when they were a young person, and we will then write back to them.

The aim is to build up relationships and ultimately invite in some of those who are participating along for an afternoon tea with our young people.

Get in touch with Alison on 01656 749219 or email info@kpcyouth.com if you would like to take part.

AM

LOCAL VALE LAW FIRM WINS TOP UK AWARD 'SUCCESS STARTS WITH A GREAT TEAM'



Catherine Hartland & Alexandra Jenkins

Local Barry Law firm attended the prestigious Modern Law Awards in Manchester on Thursday 31 January 2019 and were the only law firm from Wales to reach the finals, the only law firm to be finalists in more than 2 awards, and the only law firm to come away with three awards.



Catherine Hartland won Managing Partner of the Year UK



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WI learn all about the Air Ambulance service



LYNN Jones of Coity WI welcomed Laura Curtis (pictured right) from the Wales Air Ambulance to the April meeting at Gilead Chapel Hall.

Laura told WI members about how Wales Air Ambulance provides a much-needed service across Wales.

The Welsh Air Ambulance is a charity funded by donations and apart from the core service, depends on volunteers to do all kinds of work. They are always looking for volunteers and anyone interested can get more information from their website.

LJ



Rotary Club of Bridgend members hit the road



OVER three months of training set the scene for the Rotary Club of Bridgend's own sponsored cycle ride from Mumbles to Laleston on April 9.

It was just under 50Km but over £5,000 was raised in sponsorship. This will be used for the club's international project of improving water and hygiene facilities, and for mosquito nets at two schools in the Moshi Region of Tanzania, as part of the Rotarians Eliminating Malaria in Tanzania (REMIT) campaign.

With a back-up team of van and car drivers, a doctor, photographer, catering staff and roadies, the ride was fortunate to start in dry but blustery weather.

A great send-off was given by representatives of the Rotary Club of Mumbles, led by president Phil Rogers, as the 14 riders set out for the halfway stop at Aberavon Beach.

The 14 riders, made up of five Bridgend Rotarians including president Hopkin Joseph, two Cowbridge Rotarians and seven guest riders, made good time despite a couple of technical problems at Briton Ferry Bridge. Three punctures in as many miles must be a record!

Well refreshed after the Aberavon stop, and looking forward to a few challenging inclines,

the team pushed on. With a little light rain, a flooded road (Sonja, you were supposed to go round it not through it) and the constant wind, the final challenges were conquered.

A final regrouping (appropriately?) at Laleston Cemetery ensured a full head count, and the riders headed as a team for a warm welcome, led by Bridgend Borough Mayor John McCarthy and his wife Judy (both Rotarians) at the Mackworth Arms, Laleston.

The Rotary Club of Bridgend is most grateful for the support given to the venture by the Rotary Clubs of Mumbles and Cowbridge, Graham Brewer Haulage, The Mackworth Arms and our backup team of supporters and all who sponsored the team and the riders.

The objects of Rotary encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and in particular to encourage and foster the advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional people united in the ideal of service.

If you would like to learn more about Rotary and/or would like to join contact www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=913 or the secretary on 01656 660648.

Alan Reeks

For all the latest news from your area -
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Bridgend Council hails success of its business awards



The Mayor of Bridgend Town Council and fellow councillors together with the winners and their guests.

BRIDGEND Town Council were delighted that their new Business Award Scheme met with such enthusiasm from the public.

Bridgend has a diverse range of successful businesses and the Town Council created a business awards scheme to acknowledge the contributions made towards community life.

An independent judging panel took some time deliberating over the very high standard of entries nominated by the public, and were very pleased to announce the following winners.

The Best Shop Front Award – Lizzi of Caroline Street, Bridgend.

The Best Customer Service Award – The ProTone Body Studio, Lower Court House, Bridgend.

The Disability Awareness Award (in conjunction with the Bridgend Coalition of Disabled people and Heronsbridge School) – Danny's Taxis.

The Best New Business Award – Power Meals, the Indoor Market, Bridgend.

The Best Community Award – The Corvo Lounge, Adare Street, Bridgend.

BCBC Youth Mayor Lewis Pilliner, who was part of the judging panel said: "It was great to see how much businesses help our community, and how their actions can help it flourish. While all businesses were deserving I

am satisfied with the ones that have been chosen. I'm thankful to the community for their nominations."

The winners were presented with certificates on April 15 in the Council Chamber by the Mayor of Bridgend, Cllr Paul Warren. Cllr Steven Bletsoe, chairman of the Town Council Regeneration and Advisory Committee said: "This was the first year of these awards, the committee were impressed with the quality of the nominations. Every nominee deserved to win and it was a tough decision picking just one in each category. We look forward to this becoming an annual event, celebrating the fantastic businesses in Bridgend town."

'Eyes and ears vulnerable to allergies'

A MAESTEG optician is marking Allergy Awareness Week (April 29 - May 3) by advising locals on how to handle their hay fever and other allergies ahead of the summer.

Specsavers in Maesteg is advising glasses and contact lens-wearers, as well as people with hearing aids, what they can do to minimise symptoms caused by allergies such as hay fever, as part of the annual initiative organised by charity Allergy UK.

Simon Morris, store director of Specsavers in Maesteg, said: "Hay fever sufferers who wear contact lenses may notice the vision through their lenses can appear smeary, and their eyes can generally feel uncomfortable."

"However, there are some things contact lens wearers can try to help reduce the irritation. Contact lens-friendly eye drops can help to calm down any itchiness and wearing prescription glasses - particularly wraparound sunglasses - can prevent pollen from getting into your eyes."

"Those suffering from hay fever could also try daily disposable lenses during the summer months. While it's not always possible, staying inside when the pollen count is high will help to avoid irritation. It's also important to wash your hands and face regularly and change your clothes

when you get home to remove pollen, and, more than anything, avoid rubbing your eyes."

But it is not just eyes which are affected. Hay fever can also cause your ears to become itchy or inflamed.

Kevin Thomas, Specsavers in Maesteg, audiologist director at sure, which can cause

added: "Allergic reactions can cause the outer ear to itch or swell. The middle ear contains the eustachian tube, which acts as a drainage tube; but when mucus clogs the middle ear, it affects that drainage. This leads to a build-up in pressure, which can cause discomfort."

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Porthcawl's museum has reopened after major refurbishment



PORHCRAWL museum reopened its doors on Good Friday after a four-month refurbishment by its band of volunteers.

To mark the occasion the Mayor of Porthcawl, Cllr Norah Clarke, and the Mayor of Bridgend County borough, Cllr John McCarthy, jointly performed the formal opening.

Paul Joseph, the chairman of Porthcawl Museum, thanked all the members of the museum who helped with the work as well as Porthcawl Town Council and local contractors, including Protheroe Electrics, Bubble Construction, Mike Davies Decorator and Griffiths Construction.

He added: "It is with immense pride that I thank my colleagues and the committed and dedicated volunteers who have worked their magic creating what you will see today."

In response, Cllr Clarke said the museum now stood as a shining example of what can be achieved by an enthusiastic group of people working together to create a major attraction and asset for the town.

Pictured above are the Mayor of Porthcawl Cllr Norah Clarke and the Mayor of BCBC Cllr John McCarthy cutting the ribbon at the opening ceremony.

Report and photo by David Swidenbank.

A heartfelt letter to the Sandville



G W Y N N E T H Poacher, the driving force behind the Sandville Self-help Centre, recognised the need for a hydrotherapy pool some years ago, and supporters of the centre are well aware of the benefits it can bring.

However, it doesn't do any harm to be reminded of how important a pool such as this can be, so we are delighted to publish a letter to the Sandville, by Mrs Mary Stutt.

My thanks to the Sandville

My husband, a retired professor, Nigel Stott, a former professor of general practice in the Cardiff Medical School, became unwell in 2008 with viral myocarditis and suffered a catastrophic stroke.

He was unable to walk, speak or eat, and needed a peg in his stomach for liquid feeds.

He has enjoyed weekly hydrotherapy sessions at Sandville Self Help Centre and supported, can swim on his back, with co-ordinated arms and legs.

The water is body temperature and is suitable for the disabled, as the warmth enables muscle control, and relaxation. I have also had two hip replacements recently and recovered quickly because of the pool.

We love our visits.

Mary Stutt.

Can you offer a 'retirement home' for Tilly (age 14)?

STAFF at Dogs Trust Bridgend are appealing for a home for their oldest resident, who is the human equivalent of 98 years old.

Taking the accolade is Tilly who, at 14 years old, found herself in the care of the Pen-y-Fai rehoming centre in February after her owners were no longer able to care for her. She is currently receiving lots of love and care in a foster home through the charity's 'Home From Home' scheme but would love a home to call her own.

Well above the four-year-old average for a dog in Dogs Trust's care, Tilly is now keeping her paws crossed to find a new home for her retirement years. But staff say the terrier still has a lot of love to give and is a sweet older lady.

Angela Wetherall, Dogs Trust Bridgend's manager, said: "It's especially sad when older dogs come to us but Tilly really deserves to find her special someone. Sometimes older dogs spend a longer time with us than their younger counterparts, but there are so many advantages to having an older dog.



"They tend to need less exercise and most, like Tilly, are used to living in a home. With age on their side, their personality is already shaped.

"Tilly is friendly with everyone she meets. She loves pottering about on walks and carrying her toys around the garden. She would like to be the only pet in the home and could be left alone for a short time once she has settled in. We would like to hear from potential new owners who can offer Tilly a cosy bed where she can put her paws up and enjoy her retirement."

The rehoming centre often gets older dogs in their care and is currently

home to six mature dogs who are over the age of eight. They are keen to encourage people to consider the advantages of owning an older dog, which include being house-trained, and not having those mischievous puppy behaviours!

Dogs Trust has lots of information and support available for anyone thinking of adopting an older dog at www.dogstrust.org.uk/help-advice/factsheets-downloads. If you think Tilly is your perfect canine companion, please call 01656 338 745 to find out more.

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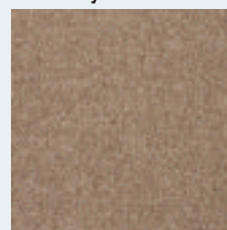
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Neighbourhood Watch AGM

THE Vale of Glamorgan
Neighbourhood Watch
Association is holding its
AGM on Wednesday, May
8 at 6pm in the Emergency
Services Centre on Port
Road West in Barry.

A spokesperson said: "We are very privileged this year to have John Hayward-Cripps, the CEO of the national Neighbourhood Watch network, as our keynote speaker. All co-ordinators and members are invited. Please put the date in your diary now."

Quilters

GLAMORGAN quilters are holding a workshop on May 10, delivered by famous quilter, Sandie Lush.

If you want to learn more about quilting with a practical workshop, we have two spaces remaining at the workshop to be held at Ystradowen village hall. For more information, contact salg96@btinternet.com.



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Bridgend Ravens Rugby Football Club, The Brewery Field, Tondur Rd. Bridgend

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For more details contact John Hopkins, on 01656 667478 or 07923 454474

or Gareth Reese, on 07773 170373

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ADVERTORIAL

The benefits of joining a choir...

HAVE you ever wondered why so many men in Wales choose to belong to a choir?

Well, of course, we are in the 'Land of Song', but you may be surprised to learn that singing and choir membership together bring so many great benefits as well as enjoyment. Members of Bridgend Male Choir (*see advert on facing page*) can definitely confirm this. Here are just a few of the benefits for you to ponder...

• **The chance to make new friends and meet others who have an interest in music.**

The regular choir rehearsals, concerts and the camaraderie singing brings is a great way to make new friends and socialise.

• **Lowers stress levels and depression.**

The stress-relieving benefits of choir singing have been widely recognized.

Reduced stress, endorphins and the positive emotions felt during group singing contribute to a "high" singers often experience after rehearsals.

• **Enhance your immune system.**

A study found that just one hour of group singing significantly lowers the stress hormone Cortisol, and boosts a person's immune system.

Research conducted alongside a choir in Frankfurt found that the group produced antibodies in the blood that are known to enhance the immune system and fight off excess bad bacteria.

• **Aerobic exercise.**

You may not immediately associate singing with a work out, but singing regularly boosts the amount of oxygen in the blood, increases energy levels, and works out a range of muscles in the upper body.

A joint study between Harvard and Yale in 2008 showed that regular singing can even increase life expectancy.

Frequently asked questions.

Do I need an audition?

During the first few rehearsals you will join a section of the choir and sing with them to see how it feels, whether it feels too low or too high for your voice.

When you decide to join the choir it will be just a simple voice test alone with the music director to see in which section of the choir your voice is best suited.

I don't think my singing voice is good enough!

If you can carry a tune and commit to learning the lyrics, our talented professional music team will guide you in the right direction.

What is certain is that with practice, determination and enthusiasm, your voice will improve over time.

Will I have to sing a solo?

No – as choristers practice new songs and learn to develop singing techniques, singing confidence will naturally grow but you will never have to sing a solo unless you choose to do so and are selected to do so by the music director.

Do I need to perform in concerts?

We are a performing choir and perform concerts quite often throughout the year, mostly, in aid of charity and worthy causes.

However you will not be required to perform until you personally believe, and the music director believes, you are ready. Although choristers are not expected to commit to every single concert you are, after all, helping to raise money for charity in many instances so are encouraged to participate in as many concerts as possible.

I have never sung in a choir before and cannot read music – does that matter?

No – it does not matter if you have never sung in a choir before or cannot read music (although we also welcome people who can read music).

How does a male voice choir work?

A male voice choir is split into four vocal sections: top tenor, second tenor, baritone and bass (from highest to lowest). When the four sections are put together they form a rich harmony.

When does the Choir rehearse?

Rehearsals take place every Thursday from 7.30pm-9.30pm at Oldcastle Primary School Bridgend.

If this sounds like something you may enjoy why not give it a go and join us for our taster evening at the Brewery Field, Tondur Road, at 7pm on Thursday, May 16.

MJ

2019 Bridgend Quiz League winners



Penybont AFC Nomads - KO Cup winners and First Division champions.



Mackworth Arms - KO Plate winners.



Chatterton Shunters - Second Division champions.

Soroptimists help support families of prisoners

AT the business meeting on April 10 at the Heronston Hotel, Soroptimist International Bridgend were delighted to welcome Claire Williams and Ceri Hill who are family support workers from Barnardo's.

Claire and Ceri are based at the Susan Ellis visitor centre at HMP Parc and the Young Offenders' Institute, and Bridgend Soroptimists have forged strong links through Barnardo's with the visitor centre.

In addition to helping out supplying refreshments to families there for visits, the club has now donated money to furnish the new conservatory on site.

The conservatory will offer

organisations such as St John's Ambulance Cymru, The Fire Service, South Wales Police and various health professionals a place to give talks and demonstrations to visiting families, who will also be able to enjoy the very comfortable facilities. Claire and Ceri expressed their deep gratitude to the Soroptimists for the funding to make the project possible.

An opening celebration is planned - just as soon as the window blinds (short delay in delivery) are installed. The fitting out will then be complete. More information on Soroptimist International activities can be found on sigbi.org/bridgend-and-district/

Eileen Bayley

Stroke club speaker reflects on life as a clergyman's wife

PORHCRAWL Stroke Club welcomed speaker Mrs Pat Richards, whose topic was 'The life of a Minister's wife in a Methodist Church'.

Pat came from Bedling, a small village in the Taff Bargoed valley 10km north of Pontypridd.

At the age of 19, Pat got married to Colin Richards, minister of a Methodist Church in Skewen, Swansea. At that young age, Pat wasn't ready for the role of a minister's wife and she found it quite daunting at times; especially once her first child was born, balancing husband, family and church.

Pat was expected to know everything, events, planning and the needs of the flock. She was a sounding board for her husband, questioning progress or goals, yet encouraging and steadfast in supporting the vision that God had given them. They worked as a team to do God's work.

Pat was a counsellor, a protector, a wife and mother.

In 1969 Pat and Colin moved to Porthcawl, where the manse was in such a mess they had to seek help to be able to turn it back into a home. Colin knocked down an inner wall, while their first child John lay in his cot; in between all this, Pat had people in and out of the manse for various reasons and because of Jesus and the two criminals and the figures of the people at the cross,



invited people unexpectedly for a meal – which Pat gracefully provided.

Colin's work at Trinity Church in Porthcawl, although rewarding, was indeed a hard one. His day started at 8.30am and would finish late evenings; the work is a true calling from God and there are not many who would be able to fill the tasks.

Colin not only provided worship in Porthcawl, but Cefn and Kenfig Hill – it was a vast circuit to cover. He was also the chaplain for the RAF.

In 1971 the first alterations and extensions to the church started, making way for more facilities. The large hall now hosts various functions. Colin even laid a carpet inside the church, depicting the three wooden crosses of Jesus and the two criminals and the figures of the people at the cross,

all made in steel. One was Jesus' mother, can you imagine the effect on her, seeing her son die in such a way?

Trinity Church is the hub of the community and was one of the first churches to use a computer for church services, so you can imagine how delighted Colin and Pat were after using a printing press for years.

There were family swaps: a young family from the USA. Although Pat and Colin are now both retired they are still involved with the community, what remarkable people! You could hear a pin drop when Pat gave her speech and believe me, that is unusual in the Stroke Club. Happy Easter everyone!

Anyone wishing to join the Porthcawl Stroke Club can contact Keith and Mary Duggan on 01656 773376.

Barbara Matthews

'Know Your Blood Pressure Day' at Porthcawl

THE mere mention of Brexit is enough to raise anyone's blood pressure, so it was fortunate that Porthcawl Rotarians organised a 'Know Your Blood Pressure' day at Trinity Church recently.

The Stroke Association promote this annual event, which is supported nationally by Rotary Clubs, when people all over the country are given the opportunity to have their blood pressure checked by health professionals without having to make an appointment at a surgery.

Of the 80 individuals who attended, 15 were advised to make a routine follow up appointment with their GP and 13 were advised to make an urgent appointment.



Rtn Carol Llewellyn; Mayor of Porthcawl, Cllr Norah Clarke; Consort Cllr Mike Clarke and Rtn Dr Alison Thomas.

High blood pressure is a key risk factor in stroke, which can occur at any age. It is the third most common cause of death in the UK and the single most common cause of severe disability.

Often, there may be no symptoms of high blood pressure so Porthcawl Rotarians support this event in the hope that it could help prevent disability and save lives.

Young athletes from schools' cross country event

IN last week's GEM, we carried a report and photos from the Bridgend county borough primary schools cross-country tournament, which was sponsored by Bridgend Rotary Club.

As we received an excellent batch of photographs, showing Bridgend Rotary president, Hopkin Joseph, presenting trophies to winning runners and school teams, it seemed a shame not to use some more this week!

The club thanked Mel James and Neil Clode for their efforts in organising the event.



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Tango in the night for WI members



THE sights, tastes and sounds of Argentina were brought nearer to home this month when the public affairs committee of Glamorgan Federation of Women's Institutes held an evening to explore some of the country's history and customs.

Members met in Cefn Cribbaw and Sian Garfield, who introduced the evening, said that they were going to experience Argentina through "Three Ts" - Taste, Talk and Tango!

The Taste was provided by Mr Andrew Norton from Majestic Wines, who provided five wines and explained about grape varieties and the viniculture involved in producing good quality wines.

The Talk was given by Megan Powell-Williams who gave a very interesting talk about the Welsh link with Patagonia both past and present. She gave an insight into what it is like to live in a community where the two languages are Welsh and Spanish.

The Tango was demonstrated by Chris and Alison of Urban Tango of Swansea. They encouraged everyone to take part in learning the basics of the dance and by the end of the evening some members would no doubt have scored a 10 from all the judges on Strictly!

Refreshments were delicious Argentinian empanadas. Everyone got into the spirit of the evening and there was a lot of fun and laughter.



Staff and cadets ready to begin the day. Photo by Sqn Ldr Jeremiah.

Cadets help at South Wales Aviation Museum opening

ON April 20, the South Wales Aviation Museum opened on the Picketston site, formerly part of RAF St Athan.

Thanks to the hard work of Flt Sgt Richard Peckham, RAFAC cadets from five squadrons, Kenfig Hill, Bridgend, Llŵchr, Port Talbot and Pencoed attended and assisted directing traffic and car parking.

Many of the visitors, trustees and volunteers of the museum praised the cadets for their work and

courtesy during the day, which proved to be one of the hottest this year.

Thanks also go to the adult staff from the squadrons who attended with the cadets, Squadron Leader Lyn Jeremiah RAFAC, Flying Officer Sian Gebel RAFAC, Flight Sergeant Adam Burman RAFAC and civilian instructor Chrissie Littlejohns.

Flt Sgt R Peckham is also a volunteer at the museum and hopes to arrange further work days and visits in the future.

Fitness groups' collection for Easter surpassed expectations

MEMBERS of Brawd Men's Health and Ms Fit Women's Health over the last few years have organised an Easter Egg collection to make those less fortunate smile.

This year, the event was organised by Jamie Everitt and Andrew Harris, who aimed to collect more eggs than ever, with a target of 222 eggs.

Expectations were exceeded and they collected an incredible 1,000 eggs which were then donated to Ty Hafan, Llamau and Noah's Ark

Children's Hospital.

Andrew said: "The event was a real success and we would like to give a massive thank you to everyone who supported us. In particular, special thanks go to a organisations that were incredibly generous - Atlantic Way Cross Fit, Anturio Adventure, St Cyres School, A Space in the City, South Wales Police, British Telecom and Go Direct School of Motoring.

"Diolch to our amazing volunteer ambassadors, Jamie and Andrew, for collecting a cracking amount of Easter Eggs for the young people, women and families we support!"



'Muffin has a great temperament'



MUFFIN is a beautiful six-year-old Akita cross German Shepherd, and is this week's 'Dog of the Week' from Bridgend Dogs Trust.

She is a gorgeous girl who has a great temperament with people. She is housetrained and travels well in the car. Muffin will be best suited being the only animal in the home.

She will need an experienced dog owner who is willing to continue her training when she comes into contact with other

dogs. Muffin can live with children 14 years old and above. She will need an owner who is around for most of the day to begin with and gradually build up the time being left.

Canine carer Hannah says "Muffin is a wonderful girl who is looking for a committed and loving home."

For more information on Muffin, please visit the Dogs Trust Rehoming Centre in Bridgend, CF31 4NG; or give us call on 01656 725219. You can also visit our website at www.dogs-trust.org.uk.

Give your skin a treat with Charlotte...



CHARLOTTE Wilkey is a qualified Beauty Therapist NVQ Level 2 and 3 with over 15 years experience in the industry.

She has recently specialised in non-surgical facial enhancements with the world leader Caci International and has opened her own treatment room in Poundfield, Llantwit Major.

Caci International is an award-winning company with expertise in the beauty industry that spans two decades and supplies over 10,000 of the worlds leading beauty salons, health clubs and spas.

Caci is a supplier of non invasive aesthetic treatments which truly deliver visible and corrective results without the risks involved with surgery or invasive procedures.

The dramatic results achieved using its exclusive technologies have generated huge demand

for Caci treatments and attracted an impressive celebrity following.

Charlotte offers the Caci Synergy range, the newest on the market which has introduced SPED-led technology alongside the use of microcurrent.

The use of SPED increases the effectiveness of the treatments by up to 70 per cent than just using microcurrent alone as with the Caci Ultimate and Ultra machines.

The treatments offered are tailored to each individual's needs, based on clients' requirements and desired outcome.

Treatments cover a variety of skin conditions, such as muscle tone (including the jawline area), lines and wrinkles, acne/blemished skin, dull and tired skin, dehydrated and drooping/hooded eyelids.

For more information or for a free consultation, please contact Charlotte via email at charlottewilkey@yahoo.co.uk or visit her website: charlottewilkeycaci.co.uk.

Council to fund two organisations

THE Vale Council has agreed to provide further financial backing - totalling more than £700,000 over the next three years - for two organisations offering support and advice to residents.

Citizens Advice Bureau will receive £154,000 annually, while Glamorgan Voluntary Service (GVS) has been awarded £95,530 per year.

Despite increasing financial pressures, this is the same level of funding each organisation received from the Council in 2018/19.

Citizens Advice Bureau offer a range of services to residents, including information about benefits and tax credits, consumer goods and services, debt management, housing, relationships and family.

Glamorgan Voluntary Services help to improve

the quality of life of people and communities by supporting volunteers, volunteering opportunities and voluntary groups.

A one-stop shop for the voluntary sector, GVS provides information, advice and guidance on all aspects of volunteering for both volunteers and recruiting organisations.

Cllr Ben Gray, Vale Council cabinet member for social care, health and leisure, said: "As a council, we are committed to providing and supporting services that are of real benefit to our residents. The work of both Citizens Advice Bureau and Glamorgan Voluntary Service help countless people throughout the Vale."

"We hope the significant sums the Council have pledged to them over the next few years will help that important work continue."

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Gordon Amesbury.

Call for lesson to be learned after great grandmother's hospital death

A GREAT grandmother spent her final days in hospital in "severe pain" after falling and breaking her pelvis, which her family claim was not X-rayed for two days.

Jean Amesbury suffered at least five falls

in a five-week stay at Llandough Hospital, Penarth, between March and April last year, her family say.

She broke her pelvis in her last fall at the hospital, but Jean's family say it took two days for an X-ray to take place and for doctors to discover this.

Jean died just days later, aged 81. Her family say she was in severe pain on the ward and not regularly attended to in the final days of her life.

Her family is now calling for lessons to be learned from her death after it emerged patients are suffering serious falls and in some cases, dying from their injuries at Cardiff and Vale hospitals.

Jean's widower Gordon Amesbury (87),

10th anniversary of Barry's Friendship Tree Festival

ART4U is set to hold its tenth annual Friendship Tree Festival on Sunday, June 22.

For more information on Art4U and the Friendship Tree Festival, visit Facebook @The Friendship Tree Festival or www.art4uwales.org.uk.

who lives in Rumney, Cardiff, said the hospital had "neglected" his wife of 63 years and hopes the same will not happen to other patients.

He said: "When Jean went into Llandough there was so much neglect. She had so many falls while she was in there. Jean is dead - we're not going to get her back all of a sudden. I'm so upset because she was my mate. But she should not have gone the way she did."

"All I'm concerned about is the neglect that happened to my wife and I don't want it to happen to others. They have to put it right."

Jean, who had two daughters, three granddaughters and two great-grandsons, died in Llandough on April 20, 2018.

Her death certificate records

bronchopneumonia, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis and a pelvic fracture as the causes of her death.

Jean's family has raised concerns about how she had been supervised when she was in hospital and say she also fell in the toilet while she was unattended. In another incident, her granddaughter found her on the floor by the side of the bed.

The health board met Jean's family and agreed a number of changes, such as all falls being investigated thoroughly and staff being reminded to respond to patients in a timely manner.

In a resolution meeting between Jean's family, lead nurses and ward managers, the health board also resolved to introduce use of high-low beds, review patients care plans following any fall, ensure pain charts

are up to date and a change to staffing levels in acute care.

Because of this meeting, the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales decided not to investigate the case further.

Between November and December last year, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, which also manages University Hospital Wales, reported seven falls where patients suffered serious injury - two of whom died.

Of the 4,960 falls reported between November 2017 and

December 2018, 95 per cent resulted in no harm, or minor harm.

A spokeswoman for Cardiff and Vale University Health Board said: "We understand this has been a very sad and difficult time for Mr and Mrs Amesbury. Following our investigation, we have put an improvement plan in place which we will be sharing an updated version with Mr and Mrs Amesbury to show progress in how the health board is addressing issues of concern and to prevent anyone else coming to harm."

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Student Jasmin gets graphic design gig at arts festival

DESPITE only starting a graphic communications foundation degree course in September, Cardiff and Vale College student Jasmin Choy has already found work as a graphic designer.

Jasmin has been taken on as an intern at youth arts festival RawFest. Planned and programmed by young people for young people, RawFest will take place at the Wales Millennium Centre from April 25-28.

The organisers of the festival contacted CAVC, asking for graphic communications learners; Jasmin applied and got the internship.

Her role will include creating the RawFest souvenir programme as well as leaflets, posters and banners. Jasmin, from Bridgend said: "I only moved from Newcastle to do this foundation degree in graphic communication a couple of months ago and now I'm actually working in it."

"I was doing an apprenticeship in cyber security, but I was doing illustration and graphics in my spare time and I decided I enjoyed doing that more. I didn't have the UCAS points for university, so this foundation course was great for me."

"We are given briefs, but we have the freedom to be creative with those briefs. I'm gaining skills that are industry standard which I wouldn't get if I was still doing this on my own."



Jasmin Choy.

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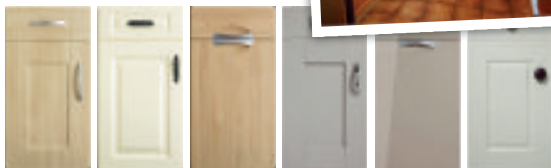
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Helen is hitting her ambitious target in weight loss journey

HELEN Waite is celebrating after hitting her target weight with Slimming World after losing seven stone and 3-and-a-half pounds.

Helen who runs groups in Rhose, Llantwit Major and St Athan knows only too well what it is like to struggle with weight issues.

She said: "I started to gain weight at the age of 10 and by the time I started high school the weight was starting to pile on."

Helen remembers the torment of other children in school calling her names because of her weight, and also being so unfit due to her size, being laughed at in PE especially the running activities where she would always be last.

Helen said: "It's incredible that even 25 years later all this is still in the back of your mind. It inspired me enter the Cardiff Half Marathon, I

started training in the school summer holidays starting with the couch to 5k, and only two weeks before the half-marathon I had only got up to 10k. I was so nervous about competing that I wondered if it was the right thing to do.

"Once the day came, I thought 'I can only do what I can'. The thing that kept me going was the comments people made all those years ago, this was my time to prove them wrong and I did it!"

"It maybe wasn't the fastest time, but I completed the 13.1 miles." Helen originally lost seven stone to get married in 2004 but after having children started to struggle again: "After my pregnancies, I gained about four stone and struggled to lose weight again, losing and gaining the same stone.

"Last year we booked to renew our vows and my aim was to wear my wedding dress again and

I'm ecstatic that it fits once again."

Helen is thrilled that Slimming World have a plan especially tailored for 11 to 15 year olds who can come free with a paying parent: "If I can stop one person going through what I did at school, it would make me extremely happy. No one deserves to be laughed at.

"Slimming World is suitable for any age with family friendly meals with roast dinners, spaghetti bolognese, curries, sausage and mash, cooked breakfasts, all being made out of our free food allowance. There really is no chance of going hungry and fits in with the whole family."

If you would like to find out more about Helen's groups, contact her on 07968 355119 or attend any of her groups.

***SEE ADVERT ON PAGE 16.**



ABOVE LEFT: Helen before, and ABOVE RIGHT: Helen after.

Dragged Across Concrete is a 'dark, minor key triumph'...

S. Craig Zahler may only be three films into his career, but already he has shown he is an idiosyncratic, single-minded and bold filmmaker.

His debut, *Bone Tomahawk*, was Western by way of cannibalistic horror, while *Brawl In Cell Block 99* took the prison movie genre and dosed it with geroids, creating an unflinching and brutal piece of work.

His third film sees him re-team with the star of ... *Cell Block 99*, Vince Vaughn, in *Dragged Across Concrete*. Vaughn and Mel Gibson (something of a controversy magnet himself) star as two police detectives, Lurasetti and Ridgeman, who are suspended for their over-zealous behaviour.

When the pair decide to chase down compensation for their efforts, they find themselves deep in the criminal underworld where they are targets for no end of unsavoury characters...

The set-up for *Dragged Across Concrete* is one that has become a little over-familiar in recent years (police officers go rogue) and one that, on face value, doesn't seem to deserve a runtime of 159 minutes either.

However, the assured touch of writer/director Zahler takes what may have been cliché and portentous and turns in a piece of work that is gripping, compelling,

sometimes ethereal and captivating.

There's more to the set-up than meets the eye – the film opens with the release from prison of Henry (Tory Kittles), whose involvement in the story doesn't really kick in until the second half where he proves to be a key component.

It is only after we've met Henry that we are introduced to the characters of Ridgeman and Lurasetti, and how a little heavy-handed arrest soon spirals out of control when social media gets involved (there is something uncomfortable yet hugely watchable seeing Mel Gibson debate the ethics of the media exposing people's intolerance given his run-ins of the past few years).

So what follows is a typical story strand – both detectives can't afford to be suspended without pay, Ridgeman due to the area he lives in and his sick wife, Lurasetti because of fears his girlfriend may think him beneath her – and they take action.

What Zahler does, both in the director's chair and with the script, is take his time to tell the story – there are plenty of two-handed scenes where characters interact, and the Zahler never feels the need to rush these, his camera a bystander to proceedings. He ups the pace when he needs to, yet also luxuriates in the performances, which are all excellent.

Gibson does the



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grizzled police officer routine incredibly well, a man with the weight of the world on his shoulders and trying to do the best thing for his family, and it's a turn that reminds you that beneath the controversy, he's an actor whose age is becoming a useful tool.

Vaughn (who was directed so memorably by Zahler in *Brawl In Cell Block 99*) is incredibly dialled down; smart yet not smarmy, his character is equally well-drawn and Vaughn responds with an incredibly watchable performance, his reluctant involvement in the escapade set up by Ridgeman a constant in the pair's relationship.

Tory Kittles is the film's hidden attraction – as the recently-released Henry he is in very much the same situation as Ridgeman and Lurasetti, yet on the other side of the law. However, Kittles' compelling turn, almost

playing the moral compass of the film, is beautifully understated and powerfully portrayed.

If Zahler's first two films have shown his skills as a writer and director working within genre confines and twisting them, then this is his tour de force so far.

The dialogue is crisp, economical and drives the plot forward, while there are some wonderful little touches he uses that sometimes deviate from the story yet hold your attention (a subplot with Jennifer Carpenter's new mother struggling to return to work is exceptional).

Visually, he works within genre rules, yet the direction has a woody feel to it that gives it a different, and hugely satisfying, feel.

It's a film of rare power, one that never puts its pedal to the floor but it doesn't need to – it knows that the characters, performances, dialogue and direction will hold you rapt throughout. As such, *Dragged Across Concrete* is one of the most quietly engrossing and pleasing films of the year.

VERDICT: S. Craig Zahler's third film is also his best yet, *Dragged Across Concrete* a dark, minor key triumph. His plotting and dialogue are pitch-perfect and he draws incredible performances from the whole cast, in particular Mel Gibson, Vince Vaughn and Tory Kittles. What could have fallen into cliché and over-familiarity instead feels exceptionally vital.

Essential viewing.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Brawl In Cell Block 99* (2017), *Reservoir Dogs* (1992).

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Out & About with The GEM

What's on, and where in your area?

Railway society
THE next lecture at the Barry and Penarth Railway Society will take place on Thursday, April 25 at Penarth Conservative Club, CF64 2EZ starting at 7.30pm.

Nick Wilcock will present 'Travels With My Camera - Photos of railways today'. Refreshments are available; bring a friend!

The best plant sale of the year!

ON Saturday, April 27 the annual Cowbridge Physic Garden Plant Sale takes place in Old Hall Gardens, starting at 10am.

With plants nurtured by the expert volunteers at the Physic Garden plus a number of professional nurseries

from as far afield as the West Country and west Wales, this is regarded as a highlight in every gardener's calendar. With exceptionally good prices for the plants on offer, it's a horticultural event not to be missed!

Remembering the Friendly Invasion
THIS year's spring Model Day at Barry War Museum is on Sunday, April 28.

It remembers the arrival of American troops in Barry in preparation for the D Day landings that took place in June 1944. The model show will display various D Day-related models such as aircraft, armoured vehicles and tanks. There will also be a talk by museum chairman, Glenn Booker, on

the arrival of American troops in 1943.

Other items on show will be a selection of space-related models commemorating 50 years since the Apollo 11 moon landing. The national charity 'Models for Heroes' will be attending the show. Models and modelling equipment will be available from Dragon Badger Models. The event begins at 10am, the talk takes place at 2.30pm. Admission is free and refreshments will be available.

Free tax advice
ARE you worried about your tax affairs?

Age Connects Cardiff & Vale Senior Health Shop run a free monthly tax advice surgery which is available to anyone

over the age of 50. A session will be held on Monday, April 29 from 9.30am - 11.30am; advice is free and no appointment is needed.

You will be able to get advice from retired tax professional. Call 01446 732385 for further information; home visits can be arranged if needed.

Stroke Club

AGE Connects Cardiff and Vale are running a drop-in monthly Stroke Club in the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry.

Get help with services available in the Vale to help you cope with the aftermath of having a stroke, and chat to others over a cuppa. The May session in line with Stroke Awareness Month will be held on Thursday, May 2 from 10am to 12pm. Why not just come along? Call 01446 732385 for further information.

PACT meetings
Why not come along to Gibbonsdown 'Cuppa with a Copper' held every Monday morning at the Aberaeron HUB, Aberaeron Close between 10am and 12 noon.

Meet Your local officer at Penarth Library, Stanwell Road, Penarth on Thursday, May 9 between 5.30pm and 6.30pm.

A police surgery will be held at Llantwit Major Library, Boverton Road, Llantwit Major on Tuesday, May 7 between 10.30am and 11.30am.

KPC charity golf event seeks golfers!
KPC Youth & Community are holding their annual charity Golf Day on Friday, June 21 at the Grove

Golf Club, Porthcawl.

Team entry for teams of four is £165 per team (or discounted Early Bird entry of £145 if submitted by April 30). Entry includes coffee on arrival, golf fees and a buffet meal following the round of golf, and to be part of our prize presentation. We still have slots available - so please come along for a great day's golf and the chance to support a local charity!

Sponsorship is also sought for raffle/auction prizes or £50 to sponsor a hole - if you can support us that would be really appreciated.

For team entry forms/more details contact Alison on 01656 749219; info@kpcyouth.com.

Bridgend PACT
OLDCASTLE PACT at The Library, Brynteg Comprehensive School on Thursday, May 2 at 6pm.

MORFA TOWN PACT at Penybont Junior School, Minerva Street, Bridgend on Thursday, May 9 at 6pm.

CEFN GLAS, LLANGEWYDD & BRYNHAFRYD PACT at Westward Community Centre on Monday, May 19 at 7pm.

NEWCASTLE PACT at Westward Community Centre on Monday, May 13 at 7pm.

PORHCRAWL EAST CENTRAL PACT at Porthcawl Fire Station, Porthcawl on Tuesday, May 14 at 6.30pm.

70 voices will raise the roof in charity concert

VALE Voices is a pop-up choir, meeting for an hour a week for three months of the year.

Now in its ninth year, Vale Voices are 60-strong with singers aged from 11 to 80.

On Saturday, April 27 at 6.30pm, the choir will end its three months of rehearsal with a concert of music from Messiah to Motown in All Saints Church, Barry, in aid of church funds.

Special guests this year will be Vox in Frox, an award-winning choir from Chew Magna. The glamorous ladies of Vox have won prizes at many choral festivals including Cheltenham and Llangollen, and together with Vale Voices, the combined chorus of 70 singers will raise the roof with their joint rendition of the Hallelujah chorus.

Entry is £5 on the door, 16s and under are free.

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All the fun of the (May) Fair at Cowbridge

A MASSIVE community event is all set up for Monday, May 6 at Cowbridge on the Bear Field, writes Philip Irwin.

Organised by Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions Club, the Cowbridge May Fair is becoming a regular fixture in the calendar, offering a full day out for the family.

It takes place every other year in Cowbridge, and the Lions organise a similar event on the alternate years in Llantwit, usually in June.

A Lions' spokesman told The GEM: "Since we started the May Fair, the aim has been to recapture the elements of a traditional rural fair, with Maypole dancing, children's races, children's art competitions, fairground attractions and even a tug of war!"

"As in previous years, there will be musical performances from the main stage throughout the day, and there will be a wide range of stalls around the field, selling food, arts and crafts, produce, refreshments and much more."

There will be an all day children's soft play area and face painting in the Leisure Centre and this year, the event is bringing something new to the table - Cowbridge's own take on the Pamplona Bull Run, organised by Cowbridge Chamber of Trade with prizes donated by Bar 44.

A Lions spokesman emphasised to The GEM that the proposed running order for the day could be subject to alteration, but it is planned that the day will begin at 10am, when the gates open and the acts scheduled for the main stage will start performing.

The various stalls (about 50 at the time of going to press) will also aim to be

up-and-running at 10am, and the funfair and Maypole dancing will start at 10am too.

The official opening of the May Fair will be performed by the Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Cllr Terry Williams, accompanied by the Town Crier at 10.45am.

The Children's Art Competition will open at 10am and close at 2pm in a designated gazebo.

There will be three age groups: Three to five; six to nine; and 10 to 12.

The youngest group will colour in a photocopy of a picture with felt tip pens, while the older groups will paint a designated subject on a blank sheet.

Completed entries will be hung around the gazebo awaiting judging by members of the Cowbridge Art Society.

The Tug of War competition will also start at 2pm.

At 3pm, a number of children's races will start, although it is advisable for parents to check the programme on the day. Local shops are donating prizes.

As the day closes, the new 'Bull Run' is scheduled for 4pm, with local people invited to don their bull's horns and run the gauntlet of local children armed with ripe tomatoes.

Once again, it is advised that prospective entrants check details of the run earlier in the day with the organisers.

However, it should provide an exciting

climax to the day, before the event closes at 5pm.

There will be acts on stage throughout the day, although circumstances may mean some changes to the running order.

The full stage programme at the time of going to press is:

- 10.15am - 10.35 - Pendoylan C/W Primary School.

- 10.50am - 11.15 - With Music in Mind.

- 11.30am - 11.55 - Ukulele Group.

- 12.15pm - 12.45 - Rock Choir.

- 1.00pm - 1.20 - Total CAOS.

- 1.30pm - 1.55 - Gareth and Caitlin.

- 2.10pm - 2.30 - Little Strings.

- 2.45pm - 3.10 - Luke James.

- 4pm - finish - Cobalt.

The local fire service has said that a fire engine will be at the event (call-outs permitting), and it is hoped to put on a demonstration.

The spokesman added: "A programme for the day will be given out at the entry gates. Entry is free but a donation to Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions Club Charitable Trust Fund, which benefits local good causes and Lions projects, would be much appreciated."



Mondays 5.30pm
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Karl 07411 621866

Mondays 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Celtic Way Community Centre, Rhosce
Helen 01446 750738/
07968 355119

Mondays 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Elfed Avenue United Church, Elfed Avenue, Penarth
Martin - 07444 374377

Tuesdays 5.30pm
Gladstone Primary School, Gladstone Road, Barry
Sarah 07791 881220

Tuesdays 9.30am, 11.30am, 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Parish of Our Lady & St Illtyd, (Catholic Church), Ham Lane East, Llantwit Major
Helen 01446 750738/
07968 355119

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The Old School, South Road, Sully
Nicola 07951 510871

Tuesday 5.30pm
Cowbridge Rugby Club High Street, Cowbridge
Jordan 07808 093990

Wednesdays 4.45pm and 6.45pm
St Francis Millennium Centre, Park Road, Porth-Y-Castell, Barry
Annmarie 07837 497523

Wednesday 5.00pm
All Saints Church Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth
Julia 07718 284171

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Sarn & Brynccwl Social Club, Brynccwl Road, Sarn
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Donna 07790797008

Thursdays 5.30pm
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The Gathering Place, Flemingston Road, St Athan
Helen 07968 355119

Saturday 9.30am
Cwm Talwg Community Centre, Cwm Parc, Barry
Vicky 07957 958900

Saturdays 7.30, 9.30 and 11.30
Colcoat Community Centre, Keats Way, Barry
Martin - 07444 374377

Saturdays 8am and 10am
All Saint's Church Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth
Julia - 07718 284171

Saturday 07.30, 09.30, 11.30
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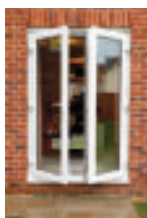
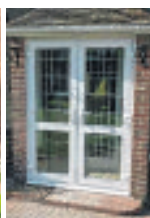
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What Kirsty said about Llanccarfan school – AM and Vale Council at loggerheads

RHOOSE councillor and South Wales Central AM Andrew RT Davies has claimed that alternative plans to secure the future of Llanccarfan Primary School can be brought forward, following Welsh Government clarification on the funding options available.

However, a Vale Council spokesperson disagreed with Mr Davies over his interpretation of this clarification.

The council plans to close the school and move it to a new site in Rhooose four miles away, a move the council claims is necessary to access funds under the 21st Century Schools Programme. Building Bulletin 99 is the national framework for primary school building projects, which sets out minimum criteria for site area and building space.

The council claims that neither Llanccarfan Primary School nor Rhws Primary School

satisfy these criteria, and so neither site would qualify for funding. But in response to a Written Assembly Question from Mr Davies, Education Minister Kirsty Williams said that Welsh Government contributions under the scheme are "normally based on the costs of the building to the maximum of the building bulletin size range", but "the decision on school size ultimately rests with the local authority, and can be affected by local policy and funding arrangements".

Following this, Mr Davies called on the council to halt the process, and explore an alternative application to develop the existing schools in Rhooose and Llanccarfan. Mr Davies said: "The council has long claimed there is no business case to keep Llanccarfan Primary School in Llanccarfan, on the basis the existing site would not qualify for 21st Century Schools funding."

"But the Minister's comments fatally undermine this, making clear the local authority has discretion when it

comes to building size, and that the guidance is not mandatory. It is therefore perfectly feasible that funding could be provided to develop the existing schools in Llanccarfan and Rhooose.

"The council should submit an application for this to the Welsh Government, who have an interest in protecting the Vale's only formally designated rural school. In the meantime, the plans to close the school should be scrapped while all effort is put into trying to save the existing school in Llanccarfan."

A Vale Council spokesperson said: "The council has developed a scheme to deliver a new school building, which will not only provide for pupils from new housing developments

in Rhooose but will also address the high number of surplus school places at Llanccarfan, which is set to continue as the birth rate in the school's catchment area falls.

"Andrew RT Davies' suggestion that the council invests in two existing school buildings to provide additional school places doesn't make sense. The solution we have come up with will ensure pupils in the Vale can benefit from the very best facilities possible.

"It is disappointing that Mr Davies has chosen to only partially share Kirsty Williams' response, in which she is clear that Welsh Government require councils to meet the Building Bulletin 99 regulations when applying for Welsh Government funding."

MP has extra incentive to finish marathon



Alun Cairns MP in training for the London Marathon, alongside Guide Dogs Cymru engagement manager, Andrea Gordon and her guide dog Kayley.

VALE MP Alun Cairns, who is running the London Marathon for the eighth time, will be given the honour of naming a guide dog puppy if he raises £2,500 in sponsorship for the Guide Dogs charity.

If he doubles that to £5,000 he will get to meet the puppy and follow its progress as it trains to become a fully-fledged guide dog. Mr Cairns has been a strong supporter of Guide Dogs throughout his time as Vale MP.

Last year, he undertook a blindfold walk in Dinas Powys to experience at first hand the dangers posed by vehicles parked on pavements. He also took a blindfold bus ride to promote the charity's campaign for audible announcements on buses,

and highlighted the plight of assistance dog owners who are illegally refused access to taxis.

The charity was delighted when the MP named Guide Dogs as one of two charities to benefit from his run this year, alongside the Dementia Revolution. Andrea Gordon, engagement manager for Guide Dogs Cymru said: "Alun has always been proactive in his support for our charity and understands the problems faced by people who are blind or partially sighted. A guide dog brings independence, confidence and mobility, and can really change your life."

You can help Alun Cairns MP to reach his target by pledging a donation at virginmoneygiving.com/aluncairns.

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THE Three Horseshoes Country Inn at Moulton doesn't believe in doing things by halves – it provides the complete package.

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It has recently undergone a stylish refurbishment with the skills of local craftsmen, using natural materials such as lime plastering, flagstone floors and featuring reclaimed oak. The carefully sourced materials have

been brought together to give a traditionally cosy but modern finish.

Naturally, the pub serves a wide range of traditional meat and fish dishes. The menu continues to evolve with a large range of vegan and vegetarian dishes.

Food is served from morning to night, from a traditional Welsh breakfast to a tasty evening meal. Pop in for fresh coffee with a choice of cakes or choose from our lunch-time snack menu.

CONTINUED ON
PAGE 19

Jam Fund's 'thank you' to fundraisers



Mason Reynolds.

PAUL Adamson has thanked Tesco in Quedgeley, near Gloucester, for running a fundraiser for the Jam Fund.

The charity recently helped three-year-old Mason Reynolds from Gloucester who was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, and his grandmother Maureen Reynolds was so grateful she helped organise the event.

Paul said: "I want to thank Maureen, Theresa Fisher, the staff at Tesco and the ladies at the local Knit and Natter group who collectively raised £850 for the Jam Fund. They also raised £50 for gifts for Mason. The ladies at Knit and Natter raised £500 from selling items they had made."

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

All dishes are produced by an in-house team of five chefs, using local produce from local farms. It all adds up to delicious, freshly produced home-made dishes.

Nowadays people love a wide choice of drinks and owner Richard Peters has sourced new wines from around the world. There are more than 20 gins, more than 20 malt whiskeys and a large range of tempting cocktails. The pub has two of its own real ales – Blacksmith's Ale and Poacher's Ale.

Sports lovers aren't forgotten either. There's a giant 75-inch TV with surround sound – and seven other screens with all the top sport on BT and Sky Sports.

There are two function rooms that can each accommodate 50-plus people and are perfect for weddings, special occasions or business meetings.

The pub couldn't be more family friendly. There are children's play areas indoors and outside. During sunny



spell, mum and dad can enjoy al fresco dining and keep an eye on the kids as they enjoy a play and run-around. Dogs are welcome too.

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Hundreds back Barry mum's education petition

A Barry mum's online petition demanding better funding for Vale schools has been signed by more than 800 people.

Mum of two Lucy Jones put the petition called 'Match school funding to national average in the Vale of Glamorgan' on Change.org and within days it had attracted hundreds of supporters.

She said: "Our schools are funded significantly under the national average, and the basics required to give our children the education they deserve are compromised."

"The Vale of Glamorgan receives £606 less per pupil than the Welsh average and £1,360 less per pupil than the highest-funded local authority. Headteachers all over the Vale are letting us know the pressures they are under financially just to make ends meet."

On the petition website she added: "Please sign the petition to show the First Minister we care about our children's education. We need to get behind our headteachers, all school staff and our children. We cannot sit back and allow bureaucracy to stamp all over our children's future."

Miss Jones had recently received a letter from primary school headteachers in Barry saying they were at crisis point.

In the letter, the headteachers issued stark warnings, including that children's education and safety could be compromised. They said there may be enforced redundancies for teachers and learning support assistants.

The letter to parents and carers reads: "Once again, the Vale Council has taken money from other budgets and funded schools at significantly more than they are allocated by Welsh Government. We are grateful to our councillors as without this our schools would have become untenable."

"As a group of Barry schools alone we will need to find hundreds of thousands of pounds in savings this year."

"To be clear, we are short of what we will need just to stand still. Many schools are looking at redundancies for teachers and LSAs."

"We all have predicted shortfalls (double this year's) for the next financial year. Your children's education and life chances are being compromised by the Welsh Government's failure to fund schools properly."

The headteachers appealed to

parents to let politicians know how they feel.

Vale Council Leader, Cllr John Thomas, told The GEM he was pleased to see teachers in Barry, and other areas of the Vale, showing solidarity against the Welsh Government's "flawed pupil funding system".

He said: "There is a failure to acknowledge that we receive the lowest level of funding for education from Welsh Government in the first instance as a result of a flawed formula designed by Welsh Government. While it may have once been effective, this formula has not been reviewed for 18 years and relies on data gathered in the 1991 census."

"It simply beggars belief that the funding of possibly the most important area of our work is determined by data that is almost 30 years old... The fact is Vale pupils' education is being held back by the use of an outdated and flawed Welsh Government formula."

The GEM put the points made by Miss Jones and Cllr Thomas to the Welsh Government.

A spokesman explained: "It's important to note that the level of spending on schools is set by individual local authorities, not by the Welsh Government. The Vale of Glamorgan spends the least per pupil in Wales."

"We recognise that to continue to raise standards, our schools and teachers need additional support. That is why we recently announced the single biggest investment for teachers since devolution – a £24m package of professional learning to support the new curriculum, giving schools the time and resources they need."

On Cllr Thomas's comments on the funding formula, the spokesman said: "The vast majority of Welsh Government funding for schools comes from the local government settlement and over 90 per cent of the schools' part of the formula is based on data updated annually, such as pupil numbers."

"The funding formula is agreed each year and we have presented proposals to update the 1991 census-related element. However, these proposals were not pursued by local authorities."

TC

Foodbank reveals increase over last 12 months

THE Vale Food bank provided 3,833 three-day emergency food parcels to local people between April 2018 to March 2019. Of this number, 1,414 went to children.

The local food bank's figures feed into a larger national picture with a record increase in foodbank use across the UK reported today by the Trussell Trust.

The Vale Food bank is backing calls from the Trussell Trust to ensure the benefits system is able to protect people from poverty.

The figures from the Vale Food bank are an 11 per cent increase on the same period last year. The charity believes the local increase is due to people struggling with continued issues with benefit payments and issues with Universal Credit, such as the five-week wait for a first payment.

Susan Lloyd-Selby, Vale Foodbank

co-ordinator said: "No one in the Vale should need a foodbank's help and we want to see an end to local people needing emergency food at all. It doesn't have to be this way - our benefits system is supposed to protect us all from being swept into poverty. Universal Credit should be part of the solution, but currently the five week wait is leaving many without enough money to cover the basics - this isn't right."

"Until we reach a future where foodbanks are no longer needed, we'll continue to provide vital support when it matters most. We're dedicated to ensuring that people in our community without enough money for food are able to access emergency support. Our vital work in the community has only been possible in the last year because of the incredible generosity shown by local people in donating food, time and funds."

'Uniform choice could be taken away from schools' warns trader

LOCAL businesses across Wales are warning against a proposed change in law around the supply of school uniform, and a Cowbridge retailer is warning that it could take the element of choice away from schools.

Late last year, the Welsh Government launched a consultation on plans to introduce new statutory guidance on school uniform in Wales, and the announcement met with concern from industry representative The Schoolwear Association.

The changes to legislation would result in increased competition for those businesses which supply specific uniform to schools as head teachers would be restricted in the choices that they could make to their uniforms.

Sally Stephenson, director of The Pencil Case, a local schoolwear supplier in Cowbridge, said: "Historically, most schools in communities across Wales would always work directly with a local school uniform supplier to provide a uniform."

"The suppliers would commit to providing all of the children with a uniform regardless of their size, their needs, or the time of the year. The head teacher and governors would be able to decide their own individual uniform policy and how the supply chain should work for their school, but if this new legislation comes in, all of that could be lost."

"There has been an independent business selling schoolwear in Cowbridge for over 50 years. I took the business over five years ago and we consider ourselves very much part of the community. We offer a quality and personal service to our customers, and this together with providing local employment, is paramount to us."

"The school uniform we provide is very high quality and excellent value for money. Our shop adds to the High Street and benefits the local economy. We care about the community."

History Society

COWBRIDGE History Society's next lecture will be on Friday, May 3 in the Lesser Hall of the Town Hall, Cowbridge. The subject will be 'The Llave Netsman of Wales' by Dylan Jones (National Museum of Wales).

Members should note that the Society's AGM will be held before this talk at 7pm. For further information, visit www.cowbridgehistorysociety.org.

and we deeply value our customers. I don't think the same can be said for the big supermarkets."

It's not just small local retailers that could suffer from the changes, but thousands of jobs could be at risk at the suppliers which stock the local schoolwear stores.

Mike Williams, sales manager for Wales at Winterbottoms Schoolwear said:

"As it currently stands, we supply the small independent stores with school uniform agreed by the schools. If this change comes into Welsh legislation, we could see schools lose the ability to decide what their uniform should be, uniform would lose its 'uniformity' as doors would open which would greatly impact on the industry."

"Shops that we supply would face immense pressure and potentially no longer be required. If demand falls in these local shops, due to what seems like a 'cheaper' alternative at supermarkets, the retailers that we supply who are local Welsh people, could lose their jobs. Quality uniform is great value, lasting for many years. Our High Streets and independent retailers are under enough pressure as it is."

"We have been supported by industry bodies like The Schoolwear Association that has not only warned against the change on behalf of all the people who's job hangs in the balance, but has also explained the impact this could have on pupils, especially those from poorer backgrounds. The change would mean that the option to choose could expose poorer children to scrutiny if their uniform isn't seen to be 'the same' as their peers."

The consultation period on the legislation has now ended, and the Welsh Government is currently reviewing the responses.

The GEM asked the Welsh Government to comment but, at the time of going to press, one had not been received.

Care home opens its cinema for local visitors to Dementia Cafe



The cinema room at Ty Llandaff.

A CARDIFF care home is opening up screenings in its cinema room to regular visitors of local dementia cafés.

Staff and residents at Ty Llandaff, a private nursing, residential and respite care home in Pontcanna, will be welcoming visitors to share uplifting films with them every Friday afternoon from 2.15pm as part of a new initiative.

Ty Llandaff activities co-ordinator Melanie Geoghegan said: "We regularly visit local dementia cafés as our residents enjoy meeting other people, giving and receiving support from one another and they find getting out into the community is invaluable."

"We came up with the idea of hosting film screenings in our cinema room as a way of giving something back to the community to which we owe so much. We have such fabulous facilities at Ty Llandaff, such as the cinema room, and we hope visitors will enjoy visiting our home."

Dementia cafés offer a hub for

people suffering from dementia and their carers to gather in a safe and caring environment to have light refreshments, and often enjoy entertainment or activities. Generally run by volunteers as drop-in centres for a nominal cost, the cafés also act as a point to share information and support.

Ty Llandaff will be screening modern films and classic family favourites including *The Greatest Showman*, *Mamma Mia* and *The Sound of Music*, all of which have feel-good storylines to help boost the mood, as well as the added benefit of a musical soundtrack which is known to aid memory in people with dementia.

Melanie added: "Our residents really enjoy their film afternoons, and it will be really nice to see new faces here, to welcome them as friends and to give everyone the opportunity to socialise over a good movie."

For more information about Ty Llandaff call 02920 600 100, email info@tyllandaffcare.com or visit www.tyllandaffcare.com

Ultra runners take on the Vale coast



THE Vale Coastal Ultra race – 32 miles in total – took place on April 6.

The race took in the whole of the Vale of Glamorgan coast, starting at Penarth Pier and finishing at

Ogmore-by-Sea. The runners took in 19 beaches and many spectacular views along the Heritage Coast.

Local photographer Andy Wicks captured the runners at Llantwit Major beach.

Rhys Jones is the latest Bridgend Athletic centurion



Rhys Jones, who has 100 senior appearances for Bridgend Athletic RFC.

RHYS Jones became the latest Bridgend Athletic player to make 100 recorded senior appearances when he appeared for Bridgend Athletic seconds in a 28-0 win at Porthcawl on Easter Saturday.

Unfortunately, there are no records between 2001-2003 when Rhys was predominantly a first XV player.

In his prime, he was a strong hard running centre or wing who earned the nickname Bam Bam. Rhys has 97 second XV appearances recorded and three first XV appearances, with a good try record of 14 tries and 70 points.

Rhys started with the Athletic playing under-12 age group rugby where he particularly remembers the local derby battles with Aberavon juniors, as will other players in the 1990s.

He then progressed to the Athletic youth side. In those days it was common to play school rugby on a Saturday morning and youth rugby in the afternoon. He played three years in the Athletic youth side. The junior and youth sides won many trophies during his time with them.

Moving on to senior

rugby, Rhys played alongside such club stalwarts as Ian Hembrow, John Doherty, Lee Grabham and current first XV coaches Stuart Morris and David Williams.

His memory of his first XV debut was a derby game against Heol Y Cyw. He caught a kick ahead and started to run but, faced with three Heol Y Cyw players closing in on him, chipped ahead straight into the full back's hand resulting in a Heol Y Cyw try.

Fortunately, he redeemed himself with a later try in the corner; his motto henceforth was to run through players, not kick.

Playing second XV rugby, he won many local leagues and cups. He captained the team when Liam Griffiths took a sabbatical in Australia.

Rhys now classes himself as the older generation on the pitch, but still enjoys keeping the youngsters in line.

He is grateful to Tony Griffiths who coached him through junior rugby and again in the second XV until he stepped down a few seasons ago and his son Liam took over the reins. Like Rhys, Tony has been a great servant to Bridgend Athletic.

AB



Bridgend Athletic under-16s on tour in Holland.

Bridgend Athletic RFC mini and junior rugby round-up

THE under-15s travelled to the Wern in Merthyr for a Friday night fixture, as it was Easter weekend.

On a perfect night for running rugby and excellent playing surface, it was looking to be a cracker.

From the kick off, the Ath were put under enormous pressure with some clever kicking from the Merthyr scrum half but the Ath defended their try line like their lives depended on it.

Turning Merthyr possession over and counter attacking from their own try line, the Ath scored the first try followed by another in quick succession.

Merthyr struck back with some pick and goes from the ruck using their very big pack, but the Ath started finding weaknesses in the Merthyr defence and scored another try before half-time.

With a brief chat at the break the emphasis was to move the ball wide as that was where the opponents' weaknesses were perceived. It didn't take long for the Ath to run in several well-worked tries with forwards also getting

on the scoresheet. The Ath pack looked fitter and more mobile, and late into the second half it proved to be the case with the Ath running out clear worthy winners.

Try scorers were Luke Griffiths, Harper Chamberlain, Callum Duckett, Tom Clarke (2), Lochie Baron (2) with three converted by Evan Beach. Final score: Merthyr 17, Bridgend Athletic 41.

The under-16s travelled to Hilversum RFC in Holland for their annual tournament and started it off by playing the hosts.

The Ath began at a furious pace and the opposition did not touch the ball for the first five minutes. Constant pressure and barnstorming runs from forwards and backs eventually resulted in a fantastic try for centre Tom Florence, which he converted himself.

The rest of the match was also dominated by the Ath. However, they came up against a very organised strong defence and could not quite break through to score. The first game won 7-0.

Next up were a strong English outfit, and the Ath again piled on the pressure. A great break from

Michael Gillette saw him break through and feed Callum Reed, who stormed through to score and narrowly missed the conversion.

Again, the Ath dominated territory and possession, but again could not turn pressure into points with the final score 5-0.

Unfortunately, by this time the Ath had suffered injuries to Fynn Mordecai, Harrison Morgan, Tom Davies, Euan Rees and Thom Lewis, who ended up in hospital after fracturing his hand.

Due to these unfortunate occurrences, the Ath had no option but to withdraw from the tournament.

Hilversum ended up losing narrowly in the final and there is no doubt that had the Ath not suffered injuries, they would have come close to winning the tournament. All in all, a fantastic tour and great experience for all the boys (and the dads).

It is hoped the walking wounded recover by this coming Sunday, April 28, when they play in the Ospreys under-16 Cup final against Gowerton at Llandarcy, kick-off 12 noon.

AB

Phoenix snuffed out by Falcons



Katie Murphy (ALL PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK).



Rhiannon Thomas.



Laura Workman.

THIS was always going to be an uphill task for Pencoed Phoenix against league leaders Pontyclun Falcons, and Phoenix starting with 15 players made the shape of things to come almost inevitable.

In the circumstances, Phoenix gave a good account of themselves in the opening half and the Falcons were made

to work hard for their 19-0 lead at the break. However, during a lengthy second period, with Phoenix numbers further depleted, the floodgates predictably opened and the home side ran out comprehensive 73-0 winners.

The Phoenix under-18s are to be congratulated in winning through to their final at the Principality Stadium against Cardiff Harlequins.

TR

Athletico Tremains seal Premier Division Cup triumph in six-goal thriller

ATHLETICO Tremains sealed the Premier Division Cup with a 4-2 victory over Saint Patrick Rovers on Easter Sunday.

Matthew Symons, Will Rowlands, Kieran Davies and Ben Symons were all on target for Tremains at Llangeinor Park.

The Bridgend-based side, however, survived an early scare when Rovers hit the woodwork in the opening stages.

Hywel Cosby showed individual brilliance and went close to beating Rovers goalkeeper Ben Kehoe with a powerful strike.

Top goalscorer Ben Parry also looked to add to his tally for the season as he flashed an effort just over the crossbar.

The two sides cancelled each other out in the first half and headed



into the interval level.

Matthew Symons finally settled the nerves of the green and whites when he fired home to break the deadlock just after the restart, and midfielder Rowlands smashed in their second shortly after, before Jay Ellis was penalised for a foul on Adam Jenkins in the penalty area.

Morgan Thomas stepped up to take the resulting spot-kick and kept his cool to halve the deficit.

Rovers continued to

press for the equaliser but found themselves having to do it all over again when substitute Davies tapped home at the back post to restore his side's two-goal advantage.

The goal provided Tremains with breathing space and Ben Symons ensured the cup was secured after slotting in a fourth.

Kieran Miller grabbed a second for Rovers in the dying minutes, although it failed to setup a late comeback.

Athletico, who fell to

defeat at this stage in the two previous campaigns, can now secure a league and cup double if they overcome Garth Vader by a four-goal margin on Sunday.

Athletico Tremains: Dane St David Smith, Will Rowlands, Sam Phillips, Josh Carey, Jay Ellis, Rob Symons, Jamie Miller, Hywel Cosby, Ben Symons, Ben Parry, Matt Symons.

Substitutes: Lewis Phillips, Jason Sutton, Joe Symons, Kieran Davies, Aaron Prickett.

Saint Patrick Rovers: Ben Kehoe, Ioan Emanuel, Dylan Thomas, Geraint Ward, Dylan Llewelyn, Kieran Miller, Adam Jenkins, Lewis Miles, Morgan Thomas, Richard Seldon.

Substitutes: Jack Thomas, John Kehoe, Ben Thomas, Thomas McCulskie, Ashley Williams.

Callum Ellis

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Cats charity issues warning about buying pets online

BUYING cats or kittens from private sellers online is a risky business, says Cats Protection after they were contacted by the owners of two very sick white kittens.

The charity's Bridgend Adoption Centre recently took in Daffan and Dill, who were sold for £360 as a pair and advertised as being eight weeks old.

When the new owners got the kittens home, they quickly realised that something was wrong as they were still trying to suckle and had raging diarrhoea.

They took the kittens to the vet who advised them that they were in fact around five weeks old, had a huge burden of worms and one was slightly jaundiced.

The vet also warned them they might die, so they called on Cats Protection's Bridgend Adoption Centre for help.

"We were really shocked at how ill they were," said Sue Dobbs, manager of the centre.

"The little girl Daff was particularly bad as she was very cold and



The two kittens before they were nursed back to health. (Photo by Sue Dobbs).

very lethargic. As well as diarrhoea, the kittens went on to develop flu and we soon discovered they were deaf too. It took four weeks and a lot of energy and money to get the kittens back to full health."

To offer cats the same welfare protection as dogs, Cats Protection is urging the Government to consider regulating cat breeding so that potential buyers are able to go to a licensed cat breeder.

It welcomed the recently announced Welsh Government consultation considering how best to address issues

related to cat breeding and selling and is also calling for an update to the law on selling cats to reflect the modern age – recognising that the majority of kittens and cats are now advertised for sale online.

They are asking that this should include a ban on the commercial sale of kittens under eight weeks which could have prevented Daffan and Dill from being sold at such a young age.

"Our branches across Wales still regularly tell us harrowing stories of kittens bred and sold that are very



Daffan and Dill after the Bridgend Adoption Centre had cared for them. (Photo by Sue Dobbs).

sick," said Madison Rogers, Advocacy and Government Relations Officer.

"It is vital that the breeding of cats is regulated and the law on selling cats in Wales is updated to avoid such tragedies. By choosing to adopt, rather than going to a breeder, you are caring for a kitten that already needs support instead of bringing another one into the world," said Madison.

"It is also beneficial for you because you'll have peace of mind that your cat or kitten is a healthy pet."

All cats and kittens adopted from Cats Protection are health-checked, wormed, vaccinated against cat flu and enteritis, neutered where appropriate and come with a free period of pet insurance.

This year, Cats Protection's cat care assistants – who help look after cats like Daffan and Dill at Bridgend Adoption Centre – are being funded, thanks to players of People's Postcode Lottery, who have raised £404 million to-date for similar good causes.

Sky Notes for May – by Dave Powell of Barry Astronomical Society

THE familiar constellation The Plough is almost overhead and the pointers show the direction to the northern horizon.

Half-way down in this direction we can see the Pole star, half-way down to the horizon again is the familiar constellation of Cassiopeia, with its easy to see 'W' shape. Here, with the aid of binoculars, we can see the Milky Way.

Having watched it when it was almost overhead, it may now seem strange to see it so low in the sky. It can be traced from the western horizon, looping underneath the Pole star, across to the eastern horizon.

If we go back to the Plough, locate the end star opposite to the pointers. Follow a curved line until you see a bright orange star: this is Arcturus, marking the constellation of Bootes.

Continue a curved line down towards the southern horizon and another bright star, Spica, will be seen. We have now arrived at the constellation Virgo. Spica is massive, something like 2,500 times as luminous as our Sun. It may very well be a two stars (binary) system although, if so, they are too close together to be seen individually. As for its colour, some see it as white, others bluish/white.

If you have a dark sky you will note Virgo looks something like the

letter 'Y' shape. Amateur astronomers with access to back-garden telescopes look forward to this time of year because hidden from view in the 'bow' of the letter Y are hundreds of galaxies. The brightest ones can be seen in telescopes.

One of the easiest to see is known as M87, and it is a giant elliptical galaxy thought to lie around 48/56 million light years from Earth. Galaxies come in different forms, but there are two main types: spiral, like the Milky Way and elliptical like M87.

One main difference between the two is that we know spiral galaxies still have material that forms new stars.

Elliptical galaxies are thought to have used up all the star-forming material. If you have a telescope you will need a clear, moonless night to search for M87.

On April 12, a first quarter Moon will be near the bright star Regulus in the constellation of Leo.

On April 15, the Moon is to the right of Spica. By the middle of May, the giant planet Jupiter will be rising just before midnight.

Do check out the website of Barry Astronomical Society www.barryastronomical.wordpress.com for details of when we hold observing sessions and our fortnightly meetings. Everyone is welcome.

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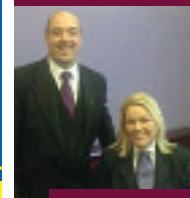
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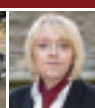
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Obituaries

BOWEN**Malcolm John**

Peacefully on 18th April, in the presence of his loving family, Malcolm aged 82 years of Barry. Dearly loved and adored husband of the late Maureen. A loved and treasured father of Paul, Neil and Karen and adored father-in-law of Pam and Dawn. Cherished grandfather of Michelle, Emma, David, Thomas, Ryan and great grandfather of Ethan, Oscar, Jacob and Benjamin. Dearest brother-in-law (brother) of John and Pamela.

Malcolm will be sadly missed by his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, until the service at St Helen's RC Church on Wednesday, 1st May at 10.30am, followed by an interment at Barry Cemetery. Flowers may be sent directly to the funeral home or donations may be made in favour of Marie Curie Cancer Care at the service.

COLLEDGE**Neil**

Announcing the unexpected passing of Neil on 11th April 2019 at the University Hospital of Wales. Husband to Jennifer, father to Simon and Rachel. Bampy to Emily, Harri and Maisy. He will be remembered with much love.

Resting at Robert D Johnson Independent Funeral Directors, 29 Holton Road, Barry. A service will be held to celebrate Neil's life on Friday, 3rd May at 1.15pm at the Hope Baptist Church, Station Hill, Bridgend, CF31 1EA, followed by committal at Coychurch Crematorium at 2.45pm.

Flowers may be sent to the funeral director. For all enquiries telephone 01446 733844.

In Memory

MAYOR**Gladys**

Sadly passed away peacefully on 18th April, aged 90 years. Devoted wife of the late Bob, loving mother of Melody and Karl. Grandmother to Wayne, Tony, Lee, Adrian and Holly.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, until the service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Monday, 29th April at 4pm. Family flowers only.

JOHN**Mary Gwyneth**

Peacefully on Wednesday, 17th April at Albert Edward Court, Porthcawl, Mary of 14 Hutchwms Close, Porthcawl. Beloved wife of the late Howard and much loved mother of Cathryn, Dafydd, Bethan and Gareth. A loving mother-in-law, grandmother and great grandmother.

Will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Cremation at Margam on Thursday, 2nd May at 1.30pm, followed by a Thanksgiving service to celebrate her life at Trinity Church, Porthcawl at 3pm. Black dress optional.

Family flowers only. Donations in lieu, if so desired, to the RNLI and Christian Aid c/o Richard Mustoe, Porthcawl Funeral Service, 75 New Road, Porthcawl, CF36 5DH. Tel 01656 783699.

BOWDITCH**Phyllis Jean**

The family are heartbroken to announce that Phyllis, aged 84, passed away at the University Hospital of Wales on 10th April after a short illness. Cherished mother, nan and great grandmother.

Resting at Robert D. Johnson Funeral Directors, 29 Holton Road, Barry. Funeral service will be held at 2pm on Thursday, 2nd May at Barry Cemetery Chapel, followed by interment at 2.30pm.

No floral tributes at the request of the family, but donations to Dementia UK will be welcome at the service or sent to the funeral director.

For further enquiries telephone 01446 733844.

SCOTT-PHILLIPS**Jean (née Patterson)**

Peacefully on 4th April 2019 at Bryn Celyn Care Home, Jean aged 91 years. Beloved wife of the late Tom.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium on Thursday, 25th April at 10am. No flowers by request. Donations in lieu, if so desired, for Cancer Research UK c/o the funeral director.

OWEN**Thomas Mark**

Sadly, Tom passed away peacefully at Llandough Hospital on 10th April, aged 51 following a short illness.

Reunited with his beloved Kerry.

Resting at Robert D Johnson Funeral Directors, 29 Holton Road, Barry until interment at Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery on Thursday, 2nd May at 11am, followed by a service at 11.30pm in the cemetery chapel.

Donations in lieu of flowers can be made at the service in memory of Tom to the I.C.U. at Llandough Hospital.

For all enquiries telephone 01446 733844.

Young Barry gymnasts enjoy success at championships

YMCA Barry female gymnasts have had another successful competition at the Welsh Elite and National Grade Championships.

National Grade 4 is the first national level grade which has a number of very complex and demanding routines included. Three gymnasts from YMCA Barry competed: Casey Moores, Emmy Saddler and Olivia Dawkins. Casey Moores, Emmy Saddler and Olivia Dawkins competed against a very strong field and Emmy Saddler earning herself sixth place on Bars.

After demonstrating their beautiful gymnastics Olivia received a Pass, with Emma and Casey receiving a Commended.

In the Elite Grade category, Azaria Karim competed in Compulsory 4 and Millie Williams competed in Compulsory 3. The Elite Grade system is a programme designed to physically prepare young gymnasts with the potential to become elite gymnasts as they get older. This is an extremely challenging competition.

In Elite Level four eight year old Azaria claimed fourth on Vault, second Beam, sixth on Floor and with all the scores combined fourth Overall. In Elite Level three nine-year-old Millie received fourth



Casey Moores, Emmy Saddler and Olivia Dawkins.

on Vault, third on Beam, second on Floor, first on Range and Conditioning and with all the scores combined, was second Overall.

Both girls qualified to represent Wales in the British Elite Grade Championships in May. A fantastic achievement for the girls and YMCA Barry.

Following on from the competition, Millie Williams travelled straight to Lilleshall, British Gymnastics National Centre for her first British Performance Pathway Squad. Millie had a brilliant first training session where she trained with the top gymnasts of her age, as well as the British National coaches.

YMCA Barry gymnastics club currently



Millie Williams and Azaria Karim.

has spaces in a number of its classes. YMCA Barry cater for all levels from Gymbabies, Gymtots, beginner gymnastics for boys and girls, teen gymnastics, cheerleading, trampolining, disability gymnastics as well as competitive gymnastics

for male and females.

If you would like your son or daughter to try gymnastics contact YMCA Barry on 01446 724000, email sophie@ymcabarry.org.uk or on social media @ymcabarry.

Acknowledgements

ANDERSON**Nigel Gerald**

Anne and family thank everyone who helped look after Nigel during his illness. Western Vale Family Practice and district nurses, Barry Adult Services, the Princess of Wales Hospital and The Manor, St Hilary for their excellent nursing care.

To advertise your situations vacant, family notices, birthdays, anniversaries, etc, call Sue on 01446 774484

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Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE LICENSING ACT 2003

To whom it may concern, We, Bridgend 1012 Ltd, do hereby give notice that we have applied to the Vale of Glamorgan Council Licensing Authority to vary the premises licence for Fox and Hounds, St Hilary Major, Bridgend, CF32 0SA.

The Application seeks to approve refurbishment and structural alteration works as more clearly illustrated on the plan deposited with the licensing authority and to amend permitted hours as follows:

Sale of alcohol:
Sunday to Thursday: 1000 hrs - 2300 hrs.
Friday, Saturday & Bank Holiday Sunday: 1000 hrs - 12 midnight

Opening hours:
Sunday to Thursday: 0700 hrs - 2330 hrs
Friday, Saturday & Bank Holiday Sunday: 0700 hrs - 0030 hrs
Any person wishing to make representation to this application may do so either in writing to Licensing Section, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or email to licensing@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk no later than Wednesday 15 May 2019.

A copy of the application can be viewed at the Licensing Authority's address during normal office hours. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application, the maximum fine on summary conviction being unlimited.

PUBLIC NOTICE LICENSING ACT 2003

To whom it may concern, I, Sam Lewis, do hereby give notice that I have applied to the licensing authority (Vale of Glamorgan) for the grant of a premises licence at 6 St Nicholas Road, Barry, CF62 6QW known as Liblits.

The licensable activities will be the sale of alcohol between Sunday to Thursday 10am - 11pm, Friday to Saturday 10am - 00.00am.

Any person wishing to make representation to this application may do so either in writing to Licensing Section, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or email to licensing@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk no later than Wednesday 15 May 2019. A copy of the application can be viewed at the Licensing Authority's address during normal office hours.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application, the maximum fine on summary conviction being £5000.

Signed: S. Lewis
Date: 15th April 2019

Bridgend Bridge Club

THE latest results for Bridgend Bridge Club are as follows:

On April 17: First, Rob Forman and Alan Heath; second, Glyn Williams and Irene Wickham; third, Irene Thomas and Graham Jones. The winners on handicap were Rob Forman and Alan Heath.

On April 18: First, Maggie Ashpole and Mike Williams; second, Stuart Davies and John Henson; third, Dilys Bowser and V Irene Thomas.

Regular club nights

take place at 7pm on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Nolton Church Hall. On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, there is a gentle bridge session when help is available with the bidding. All sessions are played in a friendly manner, visitors and new members are always welcome.

Before the Thursday afternoon session, at 1pm, Steve Burgoyne will give a talk on forcing bids.

GG

For all the latest sports news from your area - glamorgangem.co.uk/sport

Vale venues are all set to host World Bowls tournament

BARRY and Dinas Powys will host the world's best lawn bowlers next month when the 2019 World Bowls Atlantic Championships gets underway at four locations across Cardiff and the Vale.

The elite level event, which has previously been hosted in Cyprus and South Africa, will take place between Friday, May 10 and Thursday, May 23 at Barry Athletic, Dinas Powys, Penarth Windsor and Penylan bowls clubs.

More than 20 nations, including the likes of Spain, Argentina, Turkey, Brazil and Kenya will bring male and female teams for what promises to be a fiercely contested competition.

Thousands of spectators will have the opportunity to experience world class Bowls live – as Wales welcomes a prestigious bowling event for the first time.

Vale residents can follow the Men's Pairs and Women's Fours at Dinas Powys, or the Women's Singles and Men's Triples at Barry Athletic from the opening day through to Tuesday, May 21 from 8.15a.m, before the action heats up with the play-offs a day later.

Penarth plays host to the other half of the Women's Singles and Men's Triples draws over the same period before Finals Day at Penylan on Thursday, May 23.

The tournament will take place over 12 days and across four venues in Cardiff and the Vale, and event manager Alun Hodges is relishing the opportunity to bring the best lawn bowls players in the world to Wales.

He said: "We are absolutely delighted to be bringing the World Bowls Atlantic Championships to Wales. The country has become a world-renowned sporting location and we hope bowls can make a similar impact on Wales' rich sporting landscape."

"I have witnessed the growth of bowls in Wales first-hand during my nine years as an international selector and subsequent roles as International team manager during the 2014 Commonwealth Games and 2016 World Championships."

"I'm thrilled to be leading the team who will bring this event to four venues across south Wales to put bowls firmly in the hearts and minds of the sports mad Welsh public."

The World Bowls Atlantic Championships 2019 is organised and funded by the Welsh Bowls Association in association with Welsh Government and Run 4 Wales - for more information visit welshbowls.co.uk.



Pictured (left to right): Terry Hopkins, secretary Welsh Bowling Association, Ray Davies, treasurer Welsh Bowling Association, Beryl Holmes, Welsh Women's Bowling Association, John Manfield, assistant secretary Welsh Bowling Association and Alun Hodges, event manager of 2019 World Bowls Atlantic Championships.

Latest news and results from Barrivale Bridge

Allan Rees was awarded the Bill Shore Trophy for handicap of the year award.

THE results for the Barrivale Bridge Club on April 16 are as follows:

First, Peter Millar and Mick Green, 60.32 per cent; second, Mark Roderick and Mike Close, 58.33 per cent; third, Irene Thomas and Jane Brook, 52.38 per cent. The handicap winners were Allan and Pat.

New members at the club are always welcomed and a partner may be arranged, if required. If you would like to join, call 01446 418380, 01446 733425, 01446 735592 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry at 7pm on Tuesday evening.

Alternatively, players



inexperienced or new to bridge playing, may attend the following sessions: Friday 10am (doors open 9.45am) at the Pioneer Hall for lessons and assisted

play; Thursday afternoons for assisted play from 1.30pm-4pm at the Barry Uniting Church, Heol y Llongau, Barry CF63 4AP.

Lloyd trusts Glamorgan can bounce back

NORTH-WALIAN all-rounder David Lloyd believes that Glamorgan can bounce back from the disappointment of their two-run defeat against Somerset on Sunday in the Royal London One-Day Cup.

Having slumped to 21 for five at one stage, the middle-order and tail made up for a dismal top-order batting display, which subsequently saw Marnus Labuschagne, Charlie Hemphrey and Kiran Carlson selected for the Second XI against

Somerset's Second XI at Taunton Vale on Tuesday.

Following his 68 against Hampshire, Lloyd hit 84 from 93 balls, Graham Wagg struck 62 and Lukas Carey made a valiant 39 in the closing stages on Sunday.

The Welsh side ultimately failed to register their first win in one-day cricket this season, and now face tough opposition in last year's runners-up Kent at Sophia Gardens on Thursday.

Alun Rhys Chivers

Memories of the Monmouthshire Hunt point-to-point

THE Monmouthshire Point-To-Point racecourse was always popular with owners, riders and trainers from the Vale, Cowbridge's James Tudor will go down in history as being the last jockey to ride a winner there.

Brian Lee, who has been reporting on the Welsh hunt-racing scene for more than half-a-century, takes a look back in time...

The Monmouthshire Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases, which had been held at Llanvapley near Abergavenny since 1953 moved to a new venue at the Monmouthshire Show Ground this year.

When I interviewed Peter Scudamore after he had won on a horse called *Melivan* at Llanvapley in 1978, he told me he was joining the paid ranks, and little did I think then that I was talking to a rider who would become champion National Hunt jockey a record breaking eight times, and a jockey who would go on to ride a record breaking 1,678 winners and who would also set a record of riding 221 winners during the 1988/89 season.

When racing took place for the first time at Llanvapley, some 6,000 enthusiasts saw the popular grey *Sylvester 11* land the adjacent hunts ladies' race for the third year on the bounce.

However, it was a close thing, with *Sylvester 11* holding on by a head from the South Hereford challenger *High Chance*.

Cowbridge's Daphne Williams was the rider on this occasion, whereas in 1952, when the races had been held at Raglan, *Sylvester 11* had been partnered by April Budgen and in 1951 by April's sister Ruth.

The men's open race was run in two divisions with Dick Bowen winning the first on Wilf Lewis' *Copper Street* and Brian Jenkins the second on *Gilbey*.

The following year, 1954, *Sylvester 11* won the race for the fourth time and in doing so beat the same horse, *High Chance*, he had beaten the previous year. However, the rider this time was Miss Penny Pragnell. The men's open was won by *Gilbey* which beat *Kilbraes*.

The 1955 season saw *Sylvester 11* in cracking form, winning six races. Unfortunately, the one race he failed to win was at the Monmouthshire where he was trounced by South Herefordshire's *Gay Day*.

The best men's open race horse in 1957 was *Stoney Bridge*, ridden by St Athan farmer Jim Thomas, who beat the highly-rated Worcestershire horse *Merry Courier*.

Another good Welsh point-to-pointer around this time was Mr R H Jenkins' bay mare *Mariji*, who during the 1956 season and ridden by Isobel Lewis, won at the Tredegar, Monmouthshire, south Herefordshire, Cheltenham, Ludlow and Curre meetings.

All told, *Mariji* won 23 races and Isobel was in the saddle for 22 of them.

Howard Jones' charmingly named *Chingley Golden Heart*, partnered by Howard's brother Lloyd Jones, was another great favourite who graced the Llanvapley course back then in the 1950s.

In 1962, Mr RJ Anstey's *Andy 11* won the Somerset Cup under the legendary Bill Jones in one of the biggest fields - there were 15 runners - for the race in years. *Andy 11* won her 17th and final race in 1967 when beating the consistent *Agitate* at Llanvapley.

It was at Llanvapley the following year, 1968, that Bassaleg's Mike Williams, riding like a man possessed on *Duck and Dive*, beat the famed front-running *Bronze Miller* by a neck

in a race I will never forget.

There was a real touch of class about the Monmouthshire Hunt races of 1969 as the hunt staged three Players' Gold Leaf qualifying races.

The first was won by the Lady Dudley Cup winner *Bright Willow*, the second by *Sunrise*, who some claim was the best point-to-pointer ever, and the third by *Touch of Tammy* which went on to win, among other races, the Horse and Hound Cup.

All three winners were long odds-on favourites but one horse who provided a good result for the bookies was Milton Bradley's prolific winner *Octroi*, who, under regular rider Celia Conley, beat the favourite *Parka*.

In 1972 national champion rider Sue Aston chalked up her 100th winner at the Monmouthshire's evening meeting. There were just four runners and *Octroi* pulled up after jumping two fences, *Saledun* carried out *Go Pontinental* at the next fence, leaving *Rathriddage*, described as 'a very tricky customer', to finish alone.

Fast forward to 1980 and Abergavenny farrier Andrew James, riding *Lady Pen*, landed a huge gamble when winning the men's open race after being backed from 20-1 to 4-1 and off the board in places.

However, Andrew's most memorable win at Llanvapley came a couple of years later when riding a horse called *Magic Rock* in the members' race - it fell twice and still emerged the winner! *Magic Rock* was leading *Kanda Fair* until falling at the 10th fence which left *Kanda Fair*, partnered by Rodway Heathfield, with a clear lead.

Quickly remounting, Andrew chased after the leader and was closing the gap only to fall again at the 14th fence.

Undaunted, Andrew remounted again and by the time *Kanda Fair* had reached the final fence Andrew and *Magic Rock* had caught them up and went on to land the prize.

In 1984 the Monmouthshire celebrated their 80th anniversary, their first meeting having been held at Penylan, Llanarth in 1904.

In 1989 the hunt staged a nine-race card and Andrew James was successful on *Dashalong* and *Crumpet Catcher*. Tim Jones won on *Sweet Rascal* and *Lynwood Lad* and his sister Pip scored on *Celtic Remorse*.

Another nine race card was staged at Llanvapley in 1992 and it was at this meeting that the brilliant and quirky grey *Brunico*, who that year won all his 12 races including the Lady Dudley Cup, won the men's open race under usual rider Ron Trellogan.

Pontypridd's Robert Rowsell won the confined on the useful *Solars Pride* and Bridgend's Paul Hamer a division of the restricted on *Willie McGarr*.

The following year, 1993, Rudry's Tim Jones, who taught Cheltenham Gold Cup winner *Norton's Coin* to jump fences, chalked up his 100th winner on *Zephyr Nights*.

The last time racing was held at Llanvapley was in 2015 when Beth Roberts' prolific *Chesnut Annie*, ridden by Emma Moseley, won the ladies' open race beating *Fine Resolve* partnered by Rachel Leyshon.

Leading rider James Tudor from Cowbridge, who had won the men's open race on *Repeat Business*, won the very last race to be staged at Llanvapley on *Banned In Bhutan*.

To name all the famous horses and riders who competed at Llanvapley which was one of the best viewing courses in Wales one would need to write a book!

Brian Lee

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Point to point racing returns to Redlands Farm

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POINT to Point racing returned to Redlands Farm, Bonvilston for the first time in seven years on Easter Saturday, and the organisers were delighted with the huge crowds came out in the sunshine to enjoy a day's racing.

For a full report on the successful runners and riders, please see Brian Lee, On and Off the Turf, on page 35.



Vale rider Isabel's Lydstep success

LLANCARFAN'S Isabel Williams notched-up her third winner between-the-flags this season at the well-attended South Pembrokeshire Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Lydstep near Tenby on Easter Monday.

Riding her grandmother Mary Evans's 12-year-old former

National Hunt performer *Hold Court* in the ladies' open race she rode a well-judged race to win by 25 lengths from the Llangeinor horse *Patricktom Boru*, ridden by Jodie Hughes, and in doing so won the award for the best riding performance of the day judged by the race commentator Edward Williams.

Isabel, who has also ridden a number of winners under Rules, said: "I was thrilled with the way he ran, over the

moon in fact."

Cowbridge's Byron Moorcroft, who had celebrated his 31st birthday 24 hours earlier, won the restricted on the blinkered *Holy Water* which won by 12 lengths from the pace-making *Snow Puma*.

Ben Jones, who had a hat-trick at Saturday's Glamorgan fixture, came away with a double this time.

He won the opening members' race on the odds-on *Midnight Folie*, coming home a distance ahead of *The Doc*, and he won the men's open on the 12-year-old hooded *Walkabout Creek* after the odds-on favourite *Don Bersy*, partnered by Welsh champion Bradley Gibbs, was very slowly away at the start giving his three rivals a good start.

The Llangeinor horse *NorthGeorge*, ridden by Jack Tudor, appeared to be going well only to slip up on the bend on the first circuit. *Walkabout Creek* was a first winner for schoolteacher Dawn Smedley, who said: "He's a real pleasure to train." At 12, *Walkabout Creek*

was the oldest of the four runners.

In a match for the Intermediate race, the odds-on *Highway Jewel*, partnered by Welsh champion Bradley Gibbs, came home 25 lengths ahead of *Rupera Tom* ridden by Jack Tudor.

Highway Jewel is trained by Bradley's father David, and one of the mare's owners is Welsh rugby international Cory Hill. *Highway Jewel* was winning for the third time on the bounce but it was the first time that Cory had seen her race!

The French-bred *Airpur Desbois*, trained by former rugby player Gareth Moore at Pyle near Bridgend, and partnered by James King, 23, won the aged maiden race by one-and-a-quarter lengths from *Italian Symphony* much to the delight of his owner hunt-racing stalwart Mrs Carmen Goldsworthy.

Brian Lee



Great season for Barry Athletic FC

WITH some of the most important games in its history coming up in May, Barry Athletic Football Club have almost completed their 73rd season and it has been another very successful year for the club.

Off the pitch the current committee continue to work tirelessly to provide opportunities for the local footballing community. A new central heating system has finally been installed in the clubhouse after going for over a decade with no heating, the toilets have been refurbished and the kitchen is currently being relocated to provide refreshments to players and spectators.

Thousands of pounds have been raised via 3-1 external funding bids and internal fundraisers. Funding has also been

secured for new flooring via VOGC Strong Communities Fund and plans are gathering pace to renovate and modernise the changing rooms next winter.

The club were thrilled to progress from Standard to Bronze Accreditation status via the Football Association of Wales. A fitting tribute to the development and growth seen at the Athletic over the past five years.

On the pitch the Athletic fielded teams for 2018/19 in every mini age group (ages 6-11), two junior under-12 teams, an under-18 youth team and two men's teams. With over 200 players now registered, an infrastructure is being built to ensure the club has a sustainable future.

The men's A team have won the VOGAFL Premier League title for the 15th time. The trophy was secured with a 3-1 victory over Island Marine and the club were

presented with the shield by match referee Mark Harvey.

With back-to-back titles in the trophy cabinet the club feel they are ready for a new challenge and have applied for promotion to the South Wales Alliance League. They will play other league winners from across south Wales to decide which three teams get promoted. Each game will be like a cup final and the support of local people would be very much appreciated.

Matches will be played from May 13-25, but exact dates, venues and times are not known at time of writing - follow the club's social media accounts for more details.

The club president, Adrian Heathfield, and his wife Deanna will

be running the London Marathon on Sunday, April 28 for two very good causes: The Shaw Trust and The Brian Heathfield Memorial Fund.

Barry Athletic FC wish them both the very best of luck, if you would like to sponsor them then please visit mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/adeanddee2019.

The committee would like to thank every sponsor, player, coach and parent from all its age groups for their continued support and commitment.

If anyone would like to contact the club about any sponsor, coaching or playing opportunities please email Ady Gratton at chairman@barryathleticfc.uk.

AG

Friendly derby for bowls teams

SULLY Sports Bowls Club opened their season hosting nearest neighbours Sully Bowls Club in a friendly last Saturday, April 20 on a warm sunny afternoon in a game played with great camaraderie and competitiveness.

The first act of camaraderie came before the game commenced when, with the Sports a man short, Paul Spay from the Sully club stepped in to ensure a full team on both sides.

Although the Sports won 80-46 on aggregate, and won on all four rinks, things were tight on three rinks for much of the game.

Lee Romans was behind until the sixth end, then lost the lead on the 10th to finally regain it on the 15th and ease to a win.

G Brown's rink, although never behind, were level after eight

ends, but pulled away in the remaining 10 ends, and on K Aguis' rink, the lead changed hands five times until a strong final four ends saw them home.

Rink scores: A Thompson, P Collier, G Currie, G Brown 25-13; B Knight, P Spay, L Adams, R Matthews 16-9; P Holland, D Davies, C Coomber, L Romans 19-12; D Austin, M Stafford, B Whyman, K Aguis 20-12.

This Saturday, April 27 Sully Sports visit Pontyclun in the PG1s, and then Penarth Winsor in a friendly on May 1.

It's not too late for new members to join, who will be most welcome, whether experienced players or beginners; just turn up at the club, or contact Peter Holland (secretary) on 01446 622490 or Graham Brown (captain) on 01446 737274.

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The Vale of Glamorgan Football League round-up

AFC Rhose B clinched the Second Division championship with a comprehensive 6-1 win over Vale Madrid.

St Athan B sealed second spot, finishing three points off top with a 5-3 victory over Barry Athletic B. Barry Vikings' end of season dip in form continued as they were trounced 7-1 by Penarth Town. Congratulations to AFC Rhose B on their title win.

In the Premier Division, second-placed AFC Rhose edged out champions Barry Athletic 4-3 in a thriller. Although it has absolutely no effect on bearing on the league it's still a fine win for

Rhose. Athletic now look ahead to their SWFA Alliance League promotion play-off.

Island Marine wrapped up their season with a emphatic thrashing of bottom side St Athan.

In Division One, champions Holton Road finished their campaign with a 5-2 victory over a spirited Cwm Talwg side and Cardiff Airport saw off Cadoxton Barry 3-1 to seal fifth place.

This weekend it's the final handful of games and the Vale showpiece, the Barry Cup final at Jenner Park on Sunday between Penarth and Cowbridge.

HD

Llangeinor point-to-point is popular at Pyle

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THE Dunraven Stud, the equestrian home of Dawn and David Brace, hosted the recent Llangeinor Penttyrch Point-to-Point.

The sun shone and crowds flocked to the venue for what proved to be a great day out – with competitive racing.

Successful jockeys on the day were Jack Tudor, who rode a treble, and Byron Moorcroft, who brought home two winners.



Vital win for Barry RFC

BARRY RFC travelled to Llanharan on Wednesday night knowing that only maximum points would do as they continued the hunt for promotion.

Coaches Jon Bryant and Liam Scott were able to welcome back Einar Scott and Tom Lee at half backs, with Kyle Barrow reverting to full back. Sion Vidal and Sam Bowditch were recalled in the front row with Dave Provis also returning in the pack.

Barry tried to play a wide game right from the off, but whether it was the floodlights, the midweek fixture or the changed personnel, the enthusiasm in attack was not matched by the accuracy. The visitors did take the lead, however, when Barrow converted a penalty opportunity.

The hosts, showing a much-changed side to the one that faced Barry just weeks ago, pounced on some uncertain play from the green-and-whites and retaliated with a well-worked try out wide which was unconverted to take the lead.

Stung, Barry stormed forward and this time they showed more structure and patience as they

began to make their dominance in their backs tell.

However, it was the forwards who finally produced the breakthrough, with Lucas Davies burrowing over for the team's first try. Barrow added the extras to put Barry 10-5 up.

Sensing the momentum swinging their way, Barry did not let up in their attack as they searched for another score. Chances were created but a lack of accuracy, and some curious refereeing decisions, saw no more scores until the stroke of half-time.

This time, the forwards laid on the platform to allow the time and space for Tom Perry to cut a line through the Llanharan defence to score under the posts. Barrow's conversion made it 17-5.

At half-time the job was only half done and after the interval the visitors continued to go for the jugular as they searched for the bonus point.

After Barrow's unerring boot added another three points, a third try duly arrived when a break out on the left saw smart exchanges and good hands, with the ball finally reaching Brad White, who finished expertly. Barrow again added the extras.

The win was now almost secured but it was the fourth try that Barry wanted. Llanharan still had the upper hand in the scrum but Barry were able to negate that threat with some excellent back row work from Harry Moyle, John Miles, and Provis.

After weathering some sustained Llanharan pressure, substitute Alyn Evans made the break in midfield which set up the field position for Barry to unleash the backs, cutting through the home defence to see White storm through for his second try, and his team's fourth.

With Saturday's crucial game at Taff's Well in mind, the coaches emptied the bench but there was no let up for Llanharan as the visitors continued their assault on the home line.

It was Dave Provis' turn next to get on the scoresheet as the veteran powered over in the corner for an unconverted score.

The home side continued to battle hard but were visibly tiring as they conceded penalties and territory. There was still time for substitute Chris Lockyer to break through for a fine individual try with Einar Scott converting. The final score was 44-5.



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16 66 MERCEDES A250 AMG Premium 5dr DCT Automatic 4Matic, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 17k, black £22995



16 16 AUDI Q5 2.0 TDI S-Line Plus Quattro 5dr Automatic, sat nav, bang & olufsen, 21" alloys, 11k, black, £26995



15 65 AUDI Q7 3.0 TDI Quattro S-Line 5dr Tiptronic Automatic (7-Seater), BOSE, 21" alloys, sat nav, 36k, half-leather £33995



KIA WARRANTY APR 2022

15 15 KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRD KX3 5dr Automatic, sat nav, pan roof, 35k, grey, full leather £12995



15 65 BMW X1 2.0 D XDrive X-Line 5dr, sat nav plus pack, sat nav, grey, full leather £18995



14 14 HYUNDAI SANTA FE 2.2 CRDI SE Premium 5dr Automatic 4WD, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, 36k, black, full leather £15495



15 65 MINI PACEMAN 1.6 John Cooper Works ALL4 3dr (218bhp), chilli + tic pack, 39k, red, full leather £13995



FORD WARRANTY DEC 2019

16 66 FORD KUGA 2.0 TDCI Titanium 5dr 4x4, appearance pack, 19" alloys, blue, half-leather £12995



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17 17 AUDI S3 2.0 TFSI Quattro 5dr, Audi warranty March 2020, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, 9k, black, full leather £24995



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17 17 HYUNDAI TUCSON 2.0 CRDI SE 5dr 4WD, sat nav, reverse camera, 12k, grey £17495



BMW WARRANTY NOV 2019

16 66 BMW 435 D XDrive M Sport Convertible, BMW warranty Nov 2019, sat nav, 22k, white, full leather £23995



VW WARRANTY MAR 2020

17 17 VW GOLF 2.0 TSI R 4Motion 5dr, sat nav, heated seats, cruise, 11k, blue £22995



16 16 LAND ROVER DISCOVERY 2.0 TD4 HSE 5dr 4x4 Automatic (7-Seater), sat nav, pan roof, reverse camera, 13k, grey, full leather £26995

13 63 AUDI A5 2.0 TDI Quattro S-Line Coupe Automatic, sat nav, 19" alloys, heated seats, blue, full leather £11995

16 16 AUDI A7 3.0 TDI Quattro 272 Black Edition 5dr S-Tronic Automatic, BOSE sound system, sat nav, 21" alloys, grey, full leather £26795

15 65 AUDI Q3 2.0 TDI Quattro S-Line 5dr S-Tronic, sat nav, dab, heated seats, 33k, grey, half-leather £19495

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17 17 BMW 420 I XDrive Sport Gran Coupe 5dr Automatic, BMW warranty Sept 2020, sat nav, 25k, grey, full leather £20495

15 65 BMW 420 D XDrive Luxury 2dr Coupe Automatic, sat nav, heated seats, 39k, grey, full leather £16995

16 16 BMW 435 3.0 D XDrive Luxury Gran Coupe 5dr, sat nav, Bluetooth, blue, full leather £18795

16 66 BMW 435 D XDrive M Sport Convertible, BMW warranty Nov 2019, sat nav, 22k, white, full leather £23995

15 65 BMW X1 2.0 D XDrive X-Line 5dr, sat nav plus, electric memory seats, 10k, black, full leather £18995

16 66 BMW X1 XDrive D M Sport 5dr, BMW warranty Nov 2019, sat nav, heated seats, 18" alloys, 21k, blue £19495

17 17 BMW X3 2.0 D XDrive M Sport 5dr Automatic, BMW warranty April 2020, sat nav, heated seats, black, full leather £23495

16 66 FORD KUGA 2.0 TDCI Titanium 5dr 4x4, Ford warranty Dec 2019, appearance pack, 19" alloys, blue, half-leather £12995

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17 66 HYUNDAI SANTA FE 2.2 CRD BlueDrive Premium 5dr 4WD (7-Seater), Hyundai warranty Feb 2022, sat nav, reverse camera, 15k, grey, full leather £19995

16 66 HYUNDAI TUCSON 2.0 CRD Premium 4WD 5dr Automatic, Hyundai warranty Dec 2019, sat nav, reverse camera, 19" alloys, 18k, grey, full leather £18795

17 17 HYUNDAI TUCSON 2.0 CRDI SE 5dr 4WD, Hyundai warranty March 2022, sat nav, reverse camera, 12k, grey £17495

16 66 INFINITI QX30 2.2 D Premium Tech 5dr DCT Automatic, Infiniti warranty Dec 2019, sat nav, reverse camera, 21k, grey, full leather £18995

17 17 JAGUAR F-PACE 2.0 D Prestige 5dr Automatic AWD, Jaguar warranty April 2020, sat nav, 24k, blue, full leather £27995

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15 65 MINI PACEMAN 1.6 John Cooper Works ALL4 3dr (218bhp), chilli + tic pack, 39k, red, full leather £13995

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16 66 VW GOLF 2.0 TSI R 5dr DSG Automatic 4WD, VW warranty Nov 2019, sat nav, heated seats, 17k, black £21995

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16 16 HYUNDAI TUCSON 1.7 CRDI BlueDrive SE Nav 5dr, Hyundai warranty until Jan 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, 27k, choice.....£12995
18 68 HYUNDAI TUCSON 1.7 CRDI BlueDrive Go SE 5dr, Hyundai warranty Oct 2023, sat nav, reverse camera, 3k, white.....£18995
16 66 JAGUAR XF 2.0 D (180) R-Sport 4dr Automatic, Jaguar warranty Nov 2019, sat nav, 18"alloys, heated seats, choice, full leather.....£18295
16 65 JAGUAR XF 2.0 D (180) Portfolio 4dr, pan roof, head up display, sat nav, reverse camera, 30k, bronze, full leather.....£16995
17 17 JAGUAR XF 2.0 D 180 Portfolio 4dr Automatic, Jaguar warranty March 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, 10k, choice, full leather.....£18995
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17 67 KIA SPORTAGE 1.7 CRDI 3 ISG 5dr, Kia warranty Sept 2024, pan roof, sat nav, 19"alloys, reverse camera, 19k, blue, full leather.....£17995
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17 67 MAZDA 6 2.2 D (175) Sport Nav Estate, Mazda warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, 19"alloys, reverse camera, heated seats, 13k, blue, full leather.....£16995
17 17 MAZDA CX-5 2.2 D Sport Nav 5dr, Mazda warranty April 2020, sat nav, BOSE, cruise, 21k, grey, full leather.....£17995
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18 67 MERCEDES C300H AMG Line Hybrid 4dr Automatic, Mercedes warranty Feb 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, silver, 6k, full leather.....£24495
16 16 MERCEDES C350 E Sport Premium Plus Estate Automatic, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, grey, full leather.....£21995
15 65 MERCEDES CLA200 D Sport 4dr Automatic, sat nav, privacy glass, 33k, grey, half-leather.....£16995
16 66 MERCEDES CLA200 D AMG Line Coupe Automatic, Mercedes warranty Dec 2019, sat nav, cruise, 30k, white, half-leather.....£19995
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On and Off The Turf with Brian Lee

JACK Tudor, 16 of Merthyr Mawr, landed his biggest win to date when he was successful in the Cheltenham Pony Racing Authority Graduates Handicap Hurdle at Cheltenham last Wednesday, April 17 on *Uno Mas*, trained by former National Hunt jockey of note Christian Williams at Ogmere-By-Sea.

Uno Mas, a 14-1 shot, won by a neck from *Cornborough*, ridden by Miss Abbie McCain, and took the £9,285 first prize.

Earlier in the day *ToBeFair*, ridden by usual jockey Thomas Bellamy, won the Safron Landing Systems Handicap Hurdle by five lengths from the bottom-weighted *Broughtons Admiral*.

A 15-2 chance, *ToBeFair* is trained in west Wales by Debra Hamer from the Bridgend area and her husband Paul is a former Welsh champion point-to-point rider.

Twenty-four hours earlier at Exeter, Chepstow's Robert Stephens was successful with *Tudors Treasure*, which won the handicap chase under Tom O'Brien.

Made the 11-4 favourite, eight-year-old *Tudors Treasure* won by a length from *Kingston Mimosa*.

VALE POINT-TO-POINT
POINT-TO-POINT racing returned to Redlands Farm, Bonvilston in the Vale last Saturday for the first time since 2012, and the organisers who worked so hard to get the course in shape were rewarded with a huge crowd, probably the best seen at a point-to-point in Wales for some years.

There were numerous bookmakers in attendance and the day's riding honours went to west Wales' Ben Jones, age 18 who rode his first ever hat-trick.

Ben won the Conditions race on *Gun Shy*, the Timico Mixed Open on *Princely Player* and the Restricted on *Manhattan Mead*.

Gun Shy won by eight lengths from Bradley Gibbs' mount *Mr Sawyer*, and Jones said: "He travelled well throughout."

Winning owner-trainer Chepstow's Tommy Faulkner, who was saddling his seventh winner of the season, and who admitted to backing his horse, said: "We paid 2,000 guineas for him at the Ascot Sales and he's a tricky fellow to train but all going well he will run at the Cheltenham Hunter Chase evening meeting next month."

Princely Player, owned by The KP & Nuts Racing Club, and trained by National Hunt trainer Peter Hobbs' sister-in-law Karen Hobbs and qualified with the Vine and Craven Hunt in Berkshire, drew clear two fences from home from the pacemaking *Yeats Ace* (Bradley Gibbs) to win by 10 lengths with the odds-on *Hidden Charmer* (Jack Tudor) a further 12 lengths away in third spot.

"He's a sleepy sort but he stays all day," said Jones, who had won on the 12-year-old at Hereford Racecourse on April 7.

The third leg of Ben's hat-trick came in the Restricted when the blinkered *Manhattan Mead* led at the last to beat the pacemaking *Robbina* (Jack Tudor) by one-and-a-half lengths.

Backed from 8-1 to 6-1, *Manhattan Mead* is owned by hunt-racing stalwart Gwynne Phillips and trained by former Welsh champion point-to-point rider Paul Hamer in Carmarthen.

Seven faced the starter for the Aged Maiden race and Welsh champion Bradley Gibbs, riding the eight-year-old *Chase Me* for Ledbury trainer James Ridley, finished 10 lengths ahead of the favourite *SamDibien*, trained by former leading Welsh National Hunt jockey Sam Thomas.

Bradley, who received a phone call the night before the races offering him the ride, said: "The farther we went the better *Chase Me* jumped."

Of the five horses that went to post for the Young Horse Maiden, the youngest of them, the four-year-old Tim Vaughan-trained *Loco CoCo* led approaching the penultimate fence and went on to score by one-and-a-half lengths from Gibbs' mount *Thomas Crown*.

The Irish-bred *Loco CoCo* was ridden by Morgan Winstone, aged 18, who was chalking-up his first winner between the flags.

Morgan, who works for Tim Vaughan at nearby Aberthorn, hails from Pontypool and has also ridden a winner under Rules.

In a match for the Hunt Members race, the eight-year-old *Rio Bravo*, owned by Miss Claire Sherriff and partnered by Bradley Gibbs, made nearly all the running and despite jumping to the left went on to win by 15 lengths from the odds-on *Blazing Tom* (Jack Tudor).

Rio Bravo is trained by Bradley's father David Gibbs at Ynysbwll.

VALE TRAINERS' WEEKEND SUCCESS
VALE trainers Evan Williams and Christian Williams – no relation, although the latter was at one time Evan's assistant trainer – were both in good form over the Easter weekend.

So was Pembrokeshire's Peter Bowen, as at Newton Abbot on Saturday he won the big handicap chase with *Lord Bryan* and Ogmere-By-Sea's Christian Williams saddled *Primal Focus*, winner of the earlier chase on the card.

Lord Bryan, owned by Gwyn Brace and his daughter Jayne from the Vale, was ridden by Sean Bowen and *Primal Focus*, at five the youngest horse in the race, was partnered by Nick Scholfield.

At Haydock, Bowen was successful with *Minella Daddy* who was partnered by his younger son James Bowen.

Twenty-four hours later at Ffos Las, Peter Bowen was back in the winners' enclosure after winning the novices' hurdle with *Statuario* and the handicap chase with *Alf 'N' Dor*, both ridden by Sean Bowen.

Another trainer to land a Ffos Las double was Evan Williams. He won the opening mares' handicap with the bottom weighted *Mac Bella* and the West Wales National Handicap with *Pobbles Bay*, both ridden by stable jockey Adam Wedge.

Christian Williams' *Win My Wings* easily took the maiden hurdle under Nick Scholfield, coming home 19 lengths ahead of the long odds-on favourite *Volcano*.



CAVC Rugby Academy players will represent Wales at top youth tournament in Japan

CARDIFF and Vale College's Rugby Academy team is jetting out to Japan to represent Wales at a prestigious international rugby tournament.

Now in its 12th year, the Sanix World Rugby Youth Invitational Tournament is held every year in Fukuoka prefecture in Japan. Teams participate by invitation only, and are chosen because of their high standard.

The tournament has

become renowned as the pinnacle of youth rugby, with the champions being considered the strongest youth team in the world.

The only other UK college taking part in the tournament is Exeter College. The CAVC Rugby Academy, which is made up from students across CAVC who are studying a range of different courses, will travel out to Japan on April 25.

Martyn Fowler, director of rugby at Cardiff and Vale College, said: "Thirty

of our finest young men are looking forward to representing the college, Cardiff Blues and the Welsh Rugby Union with great pride at the 2019 Sanix World Youth Tournament.

"Our third fixture is against favourites St Peter's College, Cambridge, representing New Zealand. This offers the boys the opportunity to face the formidable haka – a genuine privilege as not many teams or indeed individual players get an opportunity to do so. "Teams representing

Uruguay, South Africa, Russia, Korea and Australia will be competing with six additional teams from all parts of Japan. This is without question the tour of a lifetime – you can enjoy a rugby career of 15 years and never have the opportunity to be invited on a tour of this nature to a destination so rare and significant in a World Cup year.

"We are looking forward to fully immersing ourselves in the Japanese culture and hope to amplify the good name of Cardiff and Vale College and Wales on an international stage both on and off the pitch."

The squad has also been through a programme of training with the Welsh Rugby Players Association

and Colegau Cymru to prepare them for their first international tour and to help them better understand Japanese language and culture.

The Rugby Academy squad captain will be 17-year-old Evan Lloyd from Penarth.

"I cannot wait – taking part in this tournament is going to be really good," Evan said. "It will be a new experience for all of us; I don't think any of the boys have played against teams from Fiji, Australia and New Zealand so it's going to be really good for all of us."

"I'm excited about going to Japan. From what we've seen in our training sessions it looks really good."

The Barry and District League tables and results

CRIB DIVISION 1:

League table: Rhose Social 185, Wyndham Cons 175, Liberals 173, Cadoxton Cons 167, West End Runaways 164, West End 156, Moors Boys 150.

Team knockout final:

Liberals beat West End Runaways.

SKITTLES DIVISION 1:

West End C 4.5, Rhose Social C 2.5; Slammers 6, Rhosesters 1; Liberals A 2, Allsorts 5; Rhose Social B 5.5, King William XII 1.5; Cambrian Flyers 1, Sea View Exiles 6; Rhose Social A 0, Barries Boys 7; West End D 6, Liberals C 1.

League table: Sea View Exiles 128.0, West End D 124.5, West End C 120.0, Allsorts 108.0, Rhose Social C 103.0, Rhosesters 101.5, Rugby Club 98.5, Barry Town FC 98.0, King William XII 96.5, Slammers 92.0, Rhose Social A 83.5, Barries Boys 78.0, Rhose Social B 74.5, Liberals C 66.0, Liberals A 65.0, Cambrian Flyers 47.0.

SNOOKER DIVISION 1:

League Table: West End C 98, Savoy A 91, Harbour B 85, Wyndham Cons A 73, Cadoxton Cons B 69, Cadoxton Cons Z 67, Penarth Cons A 52, Rhose Social B 43, *Liberators 42, Cadoxton Wildcats 41, Market Street B 37.

Team knockout cup semi-finals:

West End C beat Wyndham Cons A; Cadoxton Cons B beat Savoy A.

SNOOKER DIVISION 2:

League table: Savoy B 79, Rhose Social C 75, Cadoxton Cons A 72, Penarth Cons B 72, *Services Social B 70, Market Street C 67, Wyndham Cons D 63, Harbour A 56, West End A 52, Sully Sports A 48, West End B 39.

Team knockout cup semi-finals:

Savoy B beat Market Street C; Penarth Cons B beat Rhose Social C (* = points deducted).

View all results and league tables at barryleagues.co.uk.

JW

The Barry and District Mens Skittles League

DIVISION 1:

Final league table: 49ers 41, Geest 34, Bunker Boys 23, Posties 22, Willie Wombles 21, Blue Monkey 20, Merryman 20, Sea View 19, Billy Whizz 17, British Rail 17, KP Rejects 16, Cannon Balls 14.

DIVISION 2:

H Bells 270 (B Webb 32), Ex-Servicemen 298 (D Stevens 37).

Final league table: Park Lads 38, Cavaliers 28, H Bells 26, Hairly Lemons 24, Witchill Poachers 22, Colcot Boys 20, Barry Park B 20, Mighty Dockers 19, Exiles 19, Tynny

Lads 17, Ex-Servicemen 16, BP Breakaways 15.

DIVISION 3:

Final league table: Park Rangers 30, Castle Boys 24, Billy Bluebirds 22, Glenbrook Flyers 22, Witchill Nomads 20, Royalists 19, Cocoa Nuts 19, Abercete 18, Alternatives 16, C.U.D. 10, Master Mariner 0.

Allform Cup semi-finals:

49ers beat Bunker Boys; Mighty Dockers beat Exiles.

View all results and league tables at barryleagues.co.uk.

JW

Rain a pain for golfers

WITH only a handful of players prepared to tee off in the early morning rain, St Mary's Golf Club's senior section's main competition was called off.

Two days later, with a sizeable number of their members away on the section's annual two day jaunt to the courses of west Wales, a short field of 13 embarked on an individual Stableford

competition. Modest scoring belied the very pleasant conditions, with the best return of the day being a net one below par 35 points from competition secretary, Gordon Campbell.

After a lengthy winter lay-off, Ainslie Adams staged a near Tiger Woods-esque comeback to secure second place, two shots back on net 33 points. Former club captain, Fred Evans, took third with net 30 points.

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A great win for Maesteg Celtic RFC as they say farewell to prop Damien

LAST Saturday at Garth Park was one of those days that will stay in the memory of Maesteg Celtic supporters forever.

Damien Phillips, who has played around 400 games for the club, had decided to retire at the end of the game. All the players formed up and clapped him onto the field for the last time.

Many a giant prop has faced reality when they packed down against the diminutive, mild mannered Master of the Dark Arts.

Saturday's opponents for the last game of the season were second in the league and WRU Bowl finalists Bonymaen.

Having run in seven tries in the game the previous week, they must have thought they were going to have a pleasant warm-up for this week's run out at the Principality Stadium.

They scored from the kick off when they caught Celtic napping with an impressive counterattack which resulted



Veteran prop Damien Phillips being clapped onto the field.

in a converted try.

Celtic were not fazed by this early setback and settled down to graft out a response. The Celtic centre combination of Sam Mines and Harrison Evans were at their best defensively and the back three of Geraint Roberts, Kristian Jenkins and Neil Arthur adjusted quickly to the visitors' six-man attack.

Man of the match, outside half Matthew Harris, had his kicking boots on and put the visitors on the back foot at will.

Veteran scrum half Liam Healy was playing like a teenager, his sniping runs and fearless defence awesome.

It was the Celtic pack that must be praised for their performance all season and Saturday was one of their best.

The front row of Sean Lambert, Morgan Reeves and Damien Phillips took control early on, while jumpers Alex Jones and captain Oliver Petty commanded the line-out. The back row of Bleddyn Griffiths, Peter

Kehoe and Jonathan Davies were superb with 29 tackles and 18 line breaks between them.

Celtic's first try came when Matthew Harris kicked a penalty into the visitors' 22. Alex Jones won the lineout and was driven to the line.

Bonymaen were penalised for collapsing the drive and Harris kicked to the corner. Once again Jones won the ball and was driven over the line for Petty to touch down.

Celtic's second try was similar. Harris

kicked to the corner and the forwards pounded the visitors' line.

The referee awarded a number of penalties before yellow carding a defender. Celtic took advantage of the extra forward and number eight Peter Kehoe broke clear and put winger Neil Arthur over in the corner. Harris converted.

Bonymaen evened the score early in the second half when they were awarded a penalty deep in their 22. Celtic turned their backs and the visitors ran a tap penalty the length of the field to score.

Celtic made the game safe late on when full back Kristian Jenkins ran at the defence on halfway and drew two defenders, before putting wing Geraint Roberts clear. Roberts sprinted free and sidestepped the cover defence to touch down under the posts for a 21-14 win for Celtic.

They must now wait for the result of Waunarlwydd's visit to Glynneath next Saturday. **KS**

Porthcawl Runners are celebrating a memorable year



Deb Roberts, Will Edwards and Dave Bennett.



Lucy Jones, Kerry Dare-Edwards, Gareth Mole and Janet Davies.

PORHCWL Runners celebrated another memorable year at their AGM and awards night, held at the Fairways Hotel recently.

It has been another record-breaking year across the board for the club, which continues to go from strength to strength, while also reporting a record membership of 153 by year's end on March 31.

There has been plenty of success along the way and much of that was noted on what was a memorable evening.

It was no surprise when the top male and female awards once again went to the club's two premier runners, both retaining those titles.

Rocket man Dave Bennett picked up the male gong again after another excellent year for him, which included winning the vet 45 category in the West Glamorgan Cross Country League as well as taking the Porthcawl parkrun men's points crown for 2018.

He has since followed that up with a quite scintillating 1:28:25 at the Llanelli half last Sunday, only 25 seconds outside the New York City qualifying time.

Deb Roberts continues to lead the way for the ladies and she is again top female after another catalogue of achievements that include representing west Wales at the

UK Inter-Counties Cross Country Championships in Loughborough.

Deb retained the Porthcawl parkrun female points winner prize as she also won in 2017, as well as bagging the first female vet and second senior female prizes at the Run4All Neath Santa Run. She was also third overall female and F45 winner in the West Glamorgan.

But there were plenty of other awards, too. Mark James was the club parkrun male champion for the second year running with Skye Ford bagging the female honour.

Gemma Haworth was most improved female while Nick Lewis received a standing ovation when he was named most improved male – just a matter of months after taking up running with the Couch to 5k. A glut of personal bests have followed for him.

The selfless contributions to the club of Steve Picton and Lucy Jones deservedly earned them the club man and woman of the year titles respectively, and the same can be said for coach Gareth Roper, whose patience, advice and guidance to runners over many years was recognised with the chairman's award.

There was a three-way tie for runners' runner of the year. The club were split and the honour was shared between Lucy Jones, Janet Davies and Kerry-Dare Edwards.

As well as individual recognition, the club's continued team success in both the Bridgend County Running League and West Glamorgan was noted with the men, led by Will Edwards, topping Division Two in the West Glamorgan. They will be dining at the top table in Division One as a result next season.

There was also a special nod given to those runners who completed all six BCRL races in 2018 – those were Janet Davies, Skye Ford, Steve Picton, Juliet Picton, Barry James, Karen Phillips and Michele Watkins.

The BCRL time-adjusted handicap winners were Jeff Thomas and Rachel Louise Hopley. That was also the case for members who ran in all five West Glamorgan races during the 2018/19 season – they were Deb Roberts, Dave Bennett, Geraint Lewis, Will Edwards and Rob Slaughter.

The West Glamorgan time-adjusted winners were Dave Bennett and Gemma Haworth.

The formal business of the evening saw chairman Gareth Mole, secretary Toni Cosson and treasurer Alwyn Thomas all re-elected in their respective roles while the night also helped raise in excess of £1,500 for suicide prevention charity Papyrus.

Carl Field

Bridgend Athletic seconds and Porthcawl play 'carnival' rugby

WITH hundreds of spectators in carnival mood and Porthcawl's first XV game called off, they and Bridgend Athletic second XV held centre stage on a hot sunny Easter Saturday at South Road, Porthcawl.

Both sides tried to entertain the crowd by playing 15-man rugby, but the Athletic, with more experience with youngsters Tom Davies, Ben Cording, Sam Richards and Luke Bevan having recent first XV experience and older heads Andrew Brown, Lloyd Pemberton and Rhys Jones, making his 100th senior appearance, prevailed on the day with four converted tries in a 28-0 victory.

The Athletic got off to a very quick start with speedy flanker Tom Davies finishing off a move involving Nick



Lloyd Pemberton looks for gap - picture by JOHN CANON.

Jones and Ellis James. Scott Jones converted.

Jones then showed his outside half skills after good work by lock Lloyd Pemberton set up field position and lively scrum half Joe Symons gave him quick ball. A show of the ball and shimmy saw him clean through the home defence to cross under the posts for a try which he also converted.

With passive scrums,

the Athletic front row of Lewis Dando, Josh Evans and Callum Swinford were released to show their ball carrying skills and made inroads into the Porthcawl defence, allowing half backs Symons and Jones to release centres Luke Bevan and Luke Hollyman.

Alert flanker Ben Cording popped up outside Hollyman to dive over in the corner.

Jones added an excellent touchline conversion to give the Athletic a 21-0 half-time lead.

Playing down the slope, Porthcawl came into the game and for the first quarter of the second half kept the Athletic pinned inside their own half.

Their No 8 was proving a handful for the Athletic defence and moving the ball wide, Porthcawl created

several scoring opportunities. A combination of good defending by wings Ryan Pickford and Stuart Robson and poor execution of the final scoring pass kept the Athletic try line intact.

On the hour mark the Athletic broke the stranglehold and speedy full back Sam Richards showed the home side how to finish, as Luke Bevan added the conversion.

With rotating substitutions all the 20 Athletic players, including Luke Yardley, Alex Borley and player/team manager Liam Griffiths, enjoyed game time.

The final 15 minutes, played in 23c heat, increasingly saw the physios on the field and both sides were glad to hear the final whistle to adjourn to the bar and enjoy the post-match revelry.

AB